

## **Procedures for Awarding Diversity Teaching/Research Fellowship Awards**

The Diversity Teaching/Research Fellowship awards are designed to foster a diverse graduate student body by recruiting, enrolling, and retaining students in doctoral and master's degree programs who meet certain eligibility criteria. All awards are competitive and merit-based. Prospective recipients of the awards may apply directly or may be nominated by graduate programs, but all must complete the Diversity Teaching/Research Fellowship Application form available at <http://www.albany.edu/gradstudies/forms/divfellowship.pdf> and send the completed application form to Dr. Betty Shadrick, Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies, UAB 121, University at Albany, Albany, NY 12222. A Selection Committee comprised of teaching faculty and professional staff who have considerable responsibility for recruiting and retaining graduate students will make recommendations for selecting and funding Diversity Teaching/Research Fellowship recipients.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents and must have completed an application for graduate study at the University. Individuals from racial/ethnic groups currently underrepresented in graduate education are particularly encouraged to apply. The Selection Committee will give special consideration to students who are of a race or ethnicity that is underrepresented in our graduate and professional programs but will not make awards solely on that basis and every applicant will be evaluated on his or her own merits. Economic disadvantage, although not a requirement, may be the basis for eligibility. The Selection Committee will use some or all of the following criteria in determining the eligibility of applicants or nominees for the Diversity Teaching/Research Fellowship:

- Experience with and/or commitment to working with historically underserved or underprivileged populations;
- Graduation from a historically black college or university or other minority-serving institution;
- First generation in one's family to attend college;
- History of overcoming a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education;
- Participation in EOP, HEOP, or SEEK program as undergraduate;
- Member of an educationally underrepresented racial/ethnic group.

### **Process**

The Selection Committee will review applications and nominations from programs on a regular and timely basis. Any recommendations for funding of particular applicants under this Diversity Fellowship program are absolutely contingent on the department or School's decision to admit those applicants. Dr. Betty Shadrick will regularly inform departments and Schools/Colleges of the Selection Committee's recommendations, and in turn, the departments and S/C's will keep Betty informed concerning whether an offer has been extended to an applicant and whether the applicant has accepted the offer.

### **Funding Priorities**

Using the information gathered from the Diversity Teaching/Research Fellowship Application, relevant information from the applicant's graduate admissions application, and consultation concerning admissions decisions and resources available from the applicant's department, the Selection Committee will use the following guidelines to prioritize the funding of deserving Diversity Teaching/Research Fellows, with the understanding that only students expected to enroll full-time are eligible for funding:

- (1) Highest priority: Doctoral programs requesting "top offs" to attract and recruit academically talented students who have either applied or whom the department has nominated. In

the case of students receiving “top offs” from this pool to standard TA/RA offers, the doctoral program would offer students support as a “blended” award—half TA/RA responsibilities, half fellowship support—for the first year of their doctoral study. In subsequent years, the “top off” would remain even though the student might be moved to a standard TA/RA appointment. In order to expedite the process of making doctoral offers with “top offs,” Dr. Shadrick (or in her absence, Dean Pryse) are authorized to evaluate these requests quickly without requiring a meeting of the entire Selection Committee.

(2) Second priority: Doctoral programs requesting full support for a full-time student who has applied or been nominated. If awarded, doctoral students would receive whatever is the current departmental minimum stipend for the department they are entering—for 2007-08, we anticipate the minimum doctoral compensation will be \$11,000 for entering full-time funded doctoral students in every program, but this figure may be higher in certain doctoral programs. These awards will also include tuition scholarships of 9 credits per semester; beginning the second year, these tuition scholarships will be funded at the in-state rate.

(3) Third priority: Master’s programs requesting half support for a full-time student who has applied or been nominated. If awarded, master’s level students would receive half of whatever is the current GSEU minimum contract compensation for graduate students—for 2007-08, the current minimum for full-time assistantships is \$8,093, so master’s level students would receive \$4,047. Half-assistantships will also include tuition scholarships of six credits per semester; beginning the second year, these tuition scholarships will be funded at the in-state rate.

(4) Fourth priority: Graduate Opportunity Program students (participated in EOP, HEOP, or SEEK program as undergraduate). These students may be awarded a stipend to supplement their waiver of tuition.

(5) Fifth priority: Current doctoral students whose funding has expired and who have been advanced to candidacy.

(6) Last priority: Current graduate assistants and teaching assistants who apply for a supplement to their current stipends to enhance their retention in graduate studies.

### **Limitations on Funding**

All awards are subject to 2007-08 campus-wide policies concerning the limitations on state-allocated funding, including: Doctoral students eligible for state-allocated Graduate Student Support funding are required to be engaged in full-time study (9 credits each semester for full-time TA/RA’s, 1 unit of dissertation load credit for doctoral students who have been advanced to candidacy). In addition, Master’s students eligible for Diversity Fellowship funding (even those awarded half-assistantships) are expected to enroll full-time in their graduate program. Doctoral students who enter the University without advanced standing are limited to a total of four years of state allocated Graduate Student Support Funding. Doctoral students who enter with a Master’s degree or beyond in a related field (as defined by the program to which they are applying) are eligible for a maximum of 3 years of state funding; doctoral students who enter with a Master’s degree in an unrelated field are eligible for a maximum of 4 years of state funding. Master’s students, including those holding administrative graduate assistantships and/or pursuing two Master’s degrees, may receive a maximum of 2 years of support from state resources and no more than an additional two years of support beyond the Master’s for those continuing in Doctoral study. Both Doctoral and Master’s-level students who have exhausted their eligibility for Graduate Student Support Funding may be supported as part-time instructors or on external grants.