

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY
Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Award

The Graduate School and the Division of Inclusion and Equity seek to broaden participation in doctoral education by inviting nominations of accepted doctoral students for a competitive fellowship.

Newly accepted doctoral students with U.S. citizenship or permanent residency from groups historically underrepresented in doctoral education such as African Americans, Hispanic and Latinx People, Indigenous People, persons with disabilities, women, and persons from economically disadvantaged backgrounds *with a graduate assistantship offer* from all colleges are eligible for nomination. Additional groups include doctoral students interested in participating in the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program for which South Carolina in-state residency status and a desire to pursue a career in the professoriate is required.

Each selected fellowship recipient will receive a \$5,000 assistantship enhancement (maximum) each year for no more than four years and a one-time supplement of up to \$2,000 for scholarly and professional development support. Continued fellowship support is based upon availability of funds, successful progress towards degree completion, a minimum GPA of a 3.0, and continuous enrollment in the program (**see the fellowship Fact Sheet and FAQ for details**).

The chair of the department admitting the student can nominate the student by including the following information in the form linked below:

1. Accepted student's name;
2. College/Department;
3. Program of study;
4. Type of college/department funding offered;
5. A brief statement (a *minimum* of 100 words) clearly addressing the following questions:
 - a. How does the nomination of this newly accepted doctoral student further your unit's strategic inclusive excellence goals?
 - b. How does the nomination of this newly accepted doctoral student broaden participation in the professoriate in their field?

Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis each semester. For priority consideration and to support the equitable allocation of awards across all colleges, deadlines for each semester are listed below:

- For *fall semester* consideration, the **deadline is February 1st**
- For *spring semester* consideration, the **deadline is September 15th**
- For *summer semester* consideration, the **deadline is January 15th**

Nomination packets will be reviewed by the Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee, with decisions anticipated within four weeks of submission. The Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee is made up of representatives from the Division of Inclusion and Equity, the Office of Access and Equity, and the Graduate School.

Nominees and nominators will be notified via email of the Committee's decision. For any questions, please contact the Graduate School. Submit a nomination via the [Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Award Nomination Form](#).

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Fact Sheet

Program Support: Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellows will receive \$5,000 in addition to their annual assistantship award for *no more than four years*. The funds will be disbursed in two equal installments, one at the beginning of each semester and the other in the middle of each semester. Along with the fellowship award, Fellows will receive up to \$2,000 in additional support for scholarly and professional development opportunities (e.g., conference travel, purchase of a specific statistical package for dissertation data analysis, etc.). This one-time \$2,000 supplement will be managed by the University Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Award Committee and is available to Fellows beginning in the first year of their fellowship. Subsequent years of financial support are provided by the Fellow's graduate advisor, graduate program and/or college.

Award Conditions: Annual renewal of this fellowship is determined by the submission of an annual evaluation that includes the following:

1. A copy of your unofficial transcripts;
2. Your current curriculum vitae or resume;
3. A review of scholarly and professional activities with reference to all interdisciplinary work;
4. Documentation of GRAD 360° events attended (minimum of two per semester is required);
5. Articulated goals for the upcoming year (e.g., academic, professional and personal goals); and
6. A memo of evaluation and support from your graduate advisor or PI for continued funding.

Annual evaluations will be due for each year that a Fellow holds this fellowship. This is a yearly commitment; therefore, to be eligible to receive funding for the next academic year, a Fellow must submit their electronic progress report and plans for continued study by June 1st via e-mail to Rebecca Towe at rtowe@clemson.edu.

In addition to the criteria outlined above, continued funding is based upon the availability of funds, successful progress towards one's degree (including coursework, research, comprehensive exams, qualifying exams, thesis/dissertation preparation), a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0, and enrollment in a minimum of nine credit hours during each spring and fall semester. Additionally, three credit hours in each summer session may be required if mandated by the terms of any agreement between the University and another institution or organization, or by the terms of any external fellowship that you may hold.

Students who receive funds from the University Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Program are expected to remain enrolled full-time until they have successfully completed their programs of study. A Fellow who needs to request a variance from these criteria should contact the Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee as soon as possible to request a waiver and consideration for special circumstances.

No external employment is allowed without approval from the Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee.

A program orientation occurring before the start of the fall semester and an annual spring semester celebration is required of all awardees. (Fellows' attendance may be required at other events as well. The Committee will notify Fellows of such events.)

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What does broadening participation mean?

- A. Using the National Science Foundation ([NSF](#)) and the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) tenets of broadening participation as guides (see [NOT-OD-20-031](#)), Clemson University encourages faculty to diversify their student and faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from groups that are historically and traditionally underrepresented in doctoral education and the professoriate.

What is the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program, and how is it related to the Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Award?

- A. The [SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program's goal](#) is to increase the representation of minority Ph.D. students who seek careers as faculty on college campuses. The Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP) provides multiple layers of support – not only financial assistance and research funding but also career counseling, job postings and a scholar directory for networking and recruiting. Each fall, thousands of scholars and early career faculty convene to exchange best practices and support one another at the [Institute on Teaching and Mentoring](#).
- B. South Carolina is an SREB member state, and it participates in the Doctoral Scholars Program (DSP). Scholars receive a stipend from their award state by way of the DSP. Only universities committed to the program's goals sponsor doctoral scholars. Clemson University, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC), and the University of South Carolina are SREB eligible institutions in South Carolina.
- C. The Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship supports Scholars receiving the [SREB Doctoral Award](#) and the [SREB Dissertation Award](#) by covering the cost of regular academic tuition and fees. At Clemson University, SREB Scholars must have a departmental graduate assistantship to receive the fellowship.

How can I determine if an eligible applicant to my doctoral program has applied to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program?

- A. The SREB application cycle begins in January every year and closes on March 31st of the same year. Letters of acceptance or denial will be sent to applicants in mid-late July to inform applicants of their status. Department chairs may contact Mr. L. Jerry Knighton, Jr., Assistant Vice President for Access and Equity at knightl@clemson.edu with specific inquiries.

Does an accepted doctoral student need to receive the SREB Doctoral Award to be eligible for the Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship?

- A. No. It is one of several criteria included to determine eligibility for the award.

How many accepted doctoral students may I nominate for this fellowship?

- A. A department chair may nominate as many accepted doctoral students with a competitive assistantship offer from their department as they want. Nominations will be accepted on a rolling basis each semester. For priority consideration and to support the equitable allocation of awards across all colleges, deadlines for each semester are listed below:

- For *fall semester* consideration, the **deadline is February 1st**
 - For *spring semester* consideration, the **deadline is September 15th**
 - For *summer semester* consideration, the **deadline is January 15th**
- B. The Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee meets monthly to review faculty nominations and to make award decisions.

What happens if an accepted doctoral student decides to defer their enrollment?

- A. The Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee will reserve the fellowship award for one year and require the awardee and the faculty nominator to indicate the awardee's plans for enrollment by an agreed-upon date. The Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee reserves the right to reevaluate the award offer based on funding availability.

What is included in professional development opportunities?

- A. Fellows are encouraged to participate in a variety of professional development opportunities offered by their program, department, college, and university and attend regional, national and international training and events.
- B. [GRAD 360°](#) is Clemson University's comprehensive model of professional development for graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. The model is grounded in a competency-based and learner-centered framework called "The Tiger 9." It is designed to support the holistic preparation of trainees leading to professional practice in any employment sector and to augment experiential learning and career preparation occurring in programs of study and units across the university. GRAD 360° is aligned with the mission and goals of The Graduate School, the university's ten-year strategic plan (*ClemsonForward*), and widely supported by relevant stakeholders, including faculty, staff, industry partners, and trainees.
- C. Fellows are required to participate in at least two GRAD 360° events per semester.

What if my department does not have an assistantship to offer an eligible applicant?

- A. In Fall 2019, the Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Award was restructured to align with *ClemsonForward* and to better support faculty and their commitment to recruiting a more diverse population of doctoral students who are pursuing the professoriate to their programs. Priority consideration is given to faculty nominations.
- B. Accepted doctoral students who have not been offered an assistantship and who have not decided about attending Clemson University may apply directly for the award by visiting the [Office of Access and Equity's website](#) and downloading the application form for doctoral students.

What happens if my Fellow does not complete their doctoral program in four years?

- A. If a Fellow does not complete their doctoral program in four years, the department or program is responsible for supporting the Fellow through degree completion. The Graduate Diversity Doctoral Fellowship Committee will review individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis to determine if continued financial support is warranted.