

GRADUATE DIVERSITY matters

For more information on the MU Graduate School, please visit the website at <http://gradschool.missouri.edu>

The University of Missouri - Columbia is a comprehensive research institution and the largest of the four campuses within the University of Missouri System. MU is a member of the Association of American Universities and is classified as Doctoral/Research Extensive by the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, the designation for the nation's top research institutions. The scope and quality of MU's graduate programs, along with its scholarly and creative productivity, distinguish it from other public institutions in Missouri and the country. MU's federal funding for research projects has increased 66 percent since 1997. The University now has \$129 million in ongoing research projects.

McNair Scholars Program

Named for Ronald E. McNair, a member of the Challenger Space Shuttle crew, the McNair Scholars Program seeks to encourage first generation, low income students and/or students from underrepresented groups, to pursue graduate education. McNair Scholars are paired with a faculty member and conduct research, in addition to attending workshops designed to teach them more about graduate school and the process of applying.



Louis Stokes Missouri Alliance for Minority Participation



The main focus of the LS-MoAMP program is to introduce students to the challenges, rigors, and rewards of research and to assist in preparation for graduate school. In addition to working full-time on a research project under the guidance of an MU faculty mentor, students will participate in weekly brown-bag lunches, evening seminars, workshops, field trips, social events, and specialty discussions throughout the eight weeks

that they are on campus. Students will receive a stipend, 1-3 hours of research credit, room and board, as well as travel expenses to and from Columbia, Missouri.

Summer Pre-Grad Research Experience

The Summer Pre-Graduate Research Experience for students in the humanities offers undergraduate students the opportunity to work full time on a research project under the direction of an MU faculty member. The program is designed for students sincerely interested in pursuing graduate studies, particularly doctoral degrees. The program provides a stipend, research credit and travel expenses. The program targets students who are from underrepresented groups.

Multi-Cultural Teaching Scholars (MTS)

The MTS program is designed to enhance the ability of departments to recruit prospective faculty members of underrepresented groups to MU. During the summer sessions MU graduate and undergraduate students are introduced to a faculty that is more representative of the diversity of American society.

MU GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

Gus T. Ridgel Fellowship

Named in honor of the first African-American student to earn a graduate degree at MU, this fellowship program was established in 1987 to assist qualified underrepresented minority graduate students in any field at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Awards can be made to U.S. citizens who are members of an underrepresented ethnic minority population (African American, Native American or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Mexican American) and who have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

Thurgood Marshall Academic Scholarships

Named in honor of the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993), this program is designed to assist departments in recruiting and retaining graduate students from underrepresented ethnic minority populations (African American, Native American or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Mexican American). Recipients must be U.S. citizens and newly admitted--not enrolled in a graduate degree program at MU in the past three years--in a master's degree program in any field.

The MU Graduate School's campus-wide responsibility is to promote, encourage and support graduate education, faculty and graduate student research, scholarship and creative achievement. With more than 5,000 graduate students enrolled in master's, doctoral and educational specialist degree programs in 90 different areas, graduate students comprise nearly 20 percent of the MU student population.

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LS-MoAMP PROFILE



Jasmine Scott
LS-MoAMP Participant 2005
Animal Science/Pre-Vet

Why did you choose to participate in LS-MoAMP?

I chose to participate in LS-MoAMP to enhance my research experience and get a first-hand look at what it's like to be a graduate student.

How has participation in the program influenced you?

Participating in the program has influenced me to believe that I could succeed in graduate school. I learned that if I am really passionate about my research and really take the time to learn what I am doing, then I won't have to worry about being nervous about giving presentations, participating in conferences and symposiums, or even defending a thesis. If I really know my material, it will come naturally.

Tell us about the experience of working with a faculty mentor.

My mentor for the program is Dr. David Ledoux, a professor in the Department of Animal Sciences. Dr. Ledoux is a wonderful mentor who is not only extremely knowledgeable in his field, but also understands and relates to the rigors of being a student. Dr. Ledoux is a very understanding mentor and he treats me as if I am currently a graduate student, that way I know first hand what it is like conducting an ongoing project and if I want to make that commitment.



What are your plans after graduation?

Upon graduation I plan to pursue a master's in animal science leading to a PhD in animal nutrition or attend veterinary school.

What have been your favorite parts of participating in LS-MoAMP?

My favorite part of participating in LS-MoAMP has been meeting a diverse group of students who have the same goals and share the same interests as I. I also really enjoy and appreciate everything the staff has done to make the interns feel at home. Lastly, I couldn't have gained a better research experience than I did here at MU, a #1 research institution.

Tell us about your LS-MoAMP research.

I conducted a project called "Re-evaluation of Phosphorus and Calcium Requirements in Male Turkeys". I decided on this topic because there are major environmental concerns about large amounts of phosphorus (P) in excreta contaminating the soil. My project focuses on how to reduce the amounts of P intake while simultaneously meeting nutritional requirements.

Black Culture Center

The Gaines/Oldham Black Culture Center (GOBCC) is dedicated to facilitating the full participation of African-American students in every aspect of University of Missouri-Columbia campus life by advocating and supporting their educational, social and cultural endeavors. The GOBCC creates a learning environment conducive for students, administrators, faculty/staff members, and citizens of the Columbia community to understand, recognize and appreciate the contributions made by African Americans. While the Center advocates fervently for African-American students, it has supported and enhanced all cultural diversity on campus and in the Columbia community.

Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students (ABGPS)

ABGPS aspires to serve as a support group for all African-American graduate and professional students at the University of Missouri. As an organization, ABGPS seeks to assist in the monitoring of the academic progress of African American graduate and professional students, as well as supply them with information to promote a more positive experience at MU. ABGPS facilitates improved communication between faculty and students and informs students about major concerns of the University as well as the community. ABGPS also sponsors extracurricular activities that provide students an opportunity to network with other minority students.

Graduate Student Association (GSA)

The Graduate Student Association seeks to represent graduate student interests to the graduate faculty and administration. GSA also supports graduate students on a departmental level through allocating available funds and making funds available for special projects and programming. Several social events are hosted by GSA to provide graduate students an opportunity to network across disciplines.

National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science (GEM)

The University of Missouri - Columbia is a member of the GEM Consortium, which seeks to promote graduate achievement for minority students in the engineering and science disciplines. Academic fee support is provided to GEM fellows, as well as guidance and supervision to ensure successful completion of the degree.



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Diverse Student Organizations at MU

Association of Black Graduate and Professional Students (ABGPS)
Black Business Students Association (BBSA)
Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
INROADS Student Association
Legion of Black Collegians (LBC)
LBC Gospel Choir
Minorities in Medicine
Minority Association of Pre-Health Professionals (MAPS)
My Sister Myself
National Association of Black Accountants (NABA)
National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
National Association of Black Engineers (NABE)
National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)
Poetry Enhancing Noble Souls (PENS)
Spirit-Filled Student Ministries

Women of Aya
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
From the Four Directions
Asian American Association
Alpha Phi Gamma Sorority
Hispanic American Leadership Organization
Latin American Students Association
Japanese Conversation Club
Luso-Brazilian Students Association

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers
Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority
Association of Malaysian Students
Multi-Cultural Media Association (MCM)
Cross National Student Association (CNSA)
European Union Students Organization
Japanese Student Association (JSA)
International Connection
Friendship Association of Chinese Students
and Scholars (FACSS)
Thai Students Association
Bangladesh Student Association
Centro Latino de Salud, Educacion y Cultura
Romanian Student Association
Falun Dafa Group