

Graduate Fellowship

Guidelines

for nominees entering graduate studies in the

2023-2024 academic year

*Information for Directors of Graduate Studies*

*and Department Chairs/Directors*

**ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES**

These guidelines are intended to be used by Directors of Graduate Studies (DGSs) and Department Chairs/Directors at the University of Missouri. We encourage DGSs and Chairs/Directors to spend time reading through these guidelines as we update them annually to reflect changing practices informed by student and program suggestions.

Nominations must be completed by departments and graduate programs, which choose candidates from the body of accepted applicants in any given year. Students are not permitted to nominate themselves for Graduate School fellowships. Students with questions should contact their department/program’s DGS. A [list of department/program DGSs](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/faculty-staff-resources/directors-of-graduate-studies/directors-of-graduate-studies-roster/) can be found online.

Questions can be directed to Dr. Lissa Behm-Morawitz, Associate Dean of the Graduate School: [behmmorawitze@missouri.edu](mailto:kitcheltj@missouri.edu) or (573) 884-1402.

**Major changes and clarifications to the guidelines this year include:**

* Updated departmental contribution minimums based on the anticipated 4% increase in graduate assistantship stipends for 2023-2024.
* Clarifying language to reinforce that the department/program cannot replace a portion of its financial burden with Graduate School funds.
* Change to doctoral fellowship length and eligibility for a 5th year of funding.

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# **Graduate School Fellowship Program**A yellow triangle with a white background Description automatically generated with medium confidence

These [graduate fellowships](#_heading=h.17dp8vu) are awarded on a competitive basis in recognition of a student’s demonstrated scholarship, scholastic, and creative promise. These merit-based fellowships provide financial support for master’s, specialist, and doctoral students by increasing the graduate assistantship funding offers provided by departments/programs. **These merit-based increases *do not* require any additional work beyond the assistantship level offered by the department (e.g., .25 or .5 FTE), nor does the fellowship increase replace funds that the department must provide for that level of assistantship.** These fellowship awards assist departments/programs in bringing exceptional graduate students to Mizzou by offering accepted students competitive assistantship funding packages.

# **Eligibility Requirements for Fellowships**

For nominated students to receive consideration for any MU Graduate School fellowship, the following conditions must be met:

* Student must be newly accepted to MU master’s, specialist, or doctoral degree programs as full-time graduate students. (“Newly accepted” means that the student has been accepted to a graduate program and will enroll for the first time in that program during the 2023-2024 academic year. Typically, newly accepted students start in the fall semester; however, some programs may begin in summer.)
* The department/program must have provided all the required nomination materials described in the subsequent sections of this guide.

Students who are **not eligible** to receive new awards *or renewal* support from a Graduate School fellowship include:

* Students who have not yet been accepted to a graduate program
* Benefit-eligible University employees (FTE .75 or more)
* Students who will not be enrolled full-time in master’s, specialist, or doctoral study (9 hours of graded graduate course work per semester or, for those who have passed their comprehensive examinations, 2 hours of 9090 or 9990 [Engineering] research credits during fall and spring semester and 1 hour during summer session)
* Students in professional degree programs only, such as law (JD), medicine (MD), physical therapy (DPT), occupational therapy (MOT), or veterinary medicine (DVM)
* Students who are not supported by a graduate assistantship from their department/program (note: see [Fellowship Funding Model](#_heading=h.3znysh7) for more details)
* Students who are on academic probation or fail to meet the GPA requirements for a fellowship program

# **Nomination Deadline & Procedures**

**Nomination Deadline: 5 PM (CST), Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

Complete nomination files must be emailed as a single PDF file per nominee by the DGS, Chair/Director, or staff representative to the Graduate School at [**mugradfellowshipnom@missouri.edu**](mailto:mugradfellowshipnom@missouri.edu). If you are submitting multiple nominations, you may include all the nominations in one email. Forms requiring a signature or appearing originally as paper copies, including the nomination form and some letters of recommendation, may be scanned and/or may include electronically reproduced signatures.

**Restrictions on Nominations:**

* Each department/program may submit no more than a total of 3 master’s/specialist-level fellowship nominations and 4 doctoral-level fellowship nominations for a total of 7 nominations. This limit does not apply to Ridgel, Marshall, and McNair nominations, for which there are no restrictions to the number of nominations.
* While we recognize that departments/programs can utilize fellowships to leverage enhanced recruitment (e.g., freeing funds to recruit additional students), the Graduate School fellowship program is meant to support the very best students. Thus, it is the expectation that any student nominated for a fellowship is one the department/program accepts and plans to support with funding, independent of receiving a fellowship.

**Early Consideration:** If a department can recruit a highly competitive student and requires an early decision, an evaluation can be arranged, upon request, and we will do our best to return a decision quickly. Submit the request to Ms. Anita Cowan ([cowana@missouri.edu](mailto:cowana@missouri.edu)) and she will work with the Associate Dean of the Graduate School to review this request.

**Late Entries:** Submission of nominations after the deadline date will be subject to consideration using the same review criteria, but awards will be made only to the extent that funding is available.

# **Fellowship Funding Model** A picture containing drawing Description automatically generated

[**The Graduate School fellowships**](#_heading=h.17dp8vu) **are disbursed through payroll as part of the student’s monthly assistantship stipend**. The fellowship serves to top off the assistantship stipend and provide a more competitive funding package for students new to a graduate program. The department/program should not replace a portion of its financial burden with Graduate School funds and require the student to perform the same duties for the department/program. For example, if a doctoral student has a 9-month .5 FTE assistantship and a fellowship, they would receive the stipend (e.g., minimum of $19,027 from their department/program) and the fellowship (e.g., $11,000 from the Graduate School) for a total stipend of $30,027.

As of AY 2021-2022, there is a consistent funding model for master’s, specialist, and doctoral fellowships. The prior “Option 1” and “Option 2” cost-sharing models for doctoral fellowships no longer exist. The current funding model requires that the Graduate School and the department/program contribute financially to the fellowship for the duration of the fellowship.

The department’s/program’s contribution to the fellowship must be provided in the form of [a graduate assistantship](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/policy/qualifying-titles-for-graduate-assistants-and-fellows/) (i.e., GTA, GRA, GI, GLA, GF; N.B., a new title may be added for 2023-24–Graduate Professional Assistant (GPA)), at or above the highest rate (excluding additional stipend support from the fellowship) provided to any other student in the department/program with the same level assistantship. See [fellowship funding table](#_heading=h.2et92p0) for fellowship stipend rates and *minimum* department/program commitment. **We ask that departments/programs offer fellowship students .50 FTE assistantships, unless a .25 FTE appointment would benefit the student.**

*Note: Exceptions to the funding model are rare but may be requested when a student is funded by a training grant, external source, department scholarship, or other special circumstances. These situations may require a separate fellowship funding process and disbursement through Financial Aid. Communicate directly with Anita Cowan (Executive Assistant),* [*CowanA@missouri.edu*](mailto:CowanA@missouri.edu)*, to request approval. The subject title of your email request should be “Fellowship Funding Model – Request.”*

Fellowship students must also receive a [**tuition scholarship/waiver**](#_heading=h.4d34og8). The departments/programs will be responsible for covering all resident tuition for the fellowship student. In addition, eligibility requirements for the Graduate Student Tuition Support Program must be followed: <https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/tuition-support-program/>. Fellowship students will receive a **health insurance subsidy**, cost covered centrally by the University, coordinated by the Graduate School. *(Note: If funds, such as an external grant, are used to support a fellowship student, that funding source must cover tuition and insurance as allowable.)* Doctoral level fellowship funding is for up to 5 years, and master’s/specialist level fellowship funding is for up to 2 years. See funding table below for details about financial contributions.

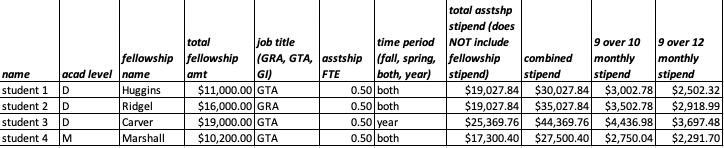
# 2023-2024 MU Graduate School Fellowship Funding Table

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Fellowship** | **Masters or Doctoral** | **Min. Total Doctoral Stipend** | **Grad School Doctoral Contribution** | **Min. Dept. Doctoral Contribution\*** | **Min. Total Masters Stipend** | **Grad School Masters Contribution** | **Min. Dept. Masters Contribution\*** |
| Maxwell | Doctoral | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Hoffman | Doctoral | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Waterson | Doctoral | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Gregory | Doctoral | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Huggins | Doctoral | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| McNair | Both | $25,513 | $16,000/year | At least $9,513/year | $18,850 | $10,200/year | $8,650/year |
| Marshall | Masters | N/A | N/A | N/A | $18,850 | $10,200/year | $8,650/year |
| Ridgel | Doctoral | $25,513 | $16,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Graduate School | Masters | N/A | N/A | N/A | $18,850 | $10,200/year | $8,650/year |
| Carver | Doctoral | $28,513 | $19,000/year | At least $9,513/year | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| AmeriCorp /VISTA | Both | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | $18,850 | $10,200/year | $8,650/year |
| Francis | Both | $20,513 | $11,000/year | At least $9,513/year | $18,850 | $10,200/year | $8,650/year |

\*The department contribution must meet or exceed the minimum assistantship stipend for the FTE, length (9- or 12-month), and level (master’s/specialist or doctoral).

**Equity in Assistantship Stipend for Fellowship Students**

*Fellowship students have been deemed exceptional and meritorious, and as a result, must be recognized for that in the financial support they receive from departments/programs.*

The department/program should not replace a portion of its financial burden with Graduate School funds and require the student to perform the same duties for the department/program. This means that in the rare circumstance that a student is hired in a .25 FTE assistantship and receives fellowship funding, they are responsible for work equivalent to 10 hours/week. Please note that although fellowship students may be receiving a higher stipend than their peers in your department/program, they must only be asked to perform work equivalent to the FTE assigned. If a fellowship student is provided with a lower FTE assistantship appointment than their peers, then the department/program must provide *significant “value-added”* *educational/training benefits* (e.g., research support, extra travel funding, coverage of incidental fees, guaranteed summer employment) not readily available to non-fellowship students. See table below for examples of how the Graduate School fellowship and department/program assistantship stipend are combined to provide a competitive assistantship package for fellowship students:

# Checklist for Complete Nomination Files

The following must be included in a single PDF file **in this order**:

1. **Nomination form** fully completed and signed by the DGS or the department chair/director. Nomination form can be downloaded from [our website](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/faculty-staff-resources/mizzou-graduate-fellowships/) or [accessed below](#_heading=h.3rdcrjn). The signature confirms that: a) the student has completed the MU Graduate Application form; b) the department/program has newly accepted the student for the identified graduate degree program; c) the department/program has identified a faculty advisor for the student; d) the student is being nominated for a Graduate School fellowship by the department/program; and e) the department/program agrees to provide the student with an assistantship stipend and resident tuition throughout the fellowship funding period.
2. **Nomination letter:** Department/program letter of support from the DGS (co-signed by the department chair/director) must clearly describe the department/program’s academic support (including mentorship) and the reason(s) the department/program is recommending the student for a fellowship. **GRE or other standardized test scores *cannot* be a part of the nomination.** The Graduate Faculty Senate policy does not require GRE for admission to the University of Missouri; therefore, it is not a factor in fellowship decisions. Although we know that some departments/programs still use the GRE as an important factor of their decision-making process, others do not. As such, we do not allow inclusion of GRE scores in *any nomination* – thus providing uniformity of nomination packages. Instead, departments/programs should explain the nominee’s preparation and promise for graduate study in the discipline or field as well as the nominee’s fit with departmental strengths. Evaluators will be looking not only for the raw talent and potential of the student but also for the department/program’s commitment and ability to mentor that student successfully.
3. **Assistantship Offer Letter**:The assistantship funding offer letter that has been extended to the student must be included in the nomination packet. A template for this letter that has been approved by Human Resources is available on the DGS Canvas site. A note that this letter should be signed by the Department Chair/Director to indicate their commitment to the financial support of the student. If a student is awarded the fellowship, departments/programs may update this assistantship offer letter at a later date to reflect the increased financial package.
4. An approximately 500-word **personal statement** from the student giving reasons for pursuing graduate study (personal statement used for department/program application is appropriate).
5. The **student’s CV or resume**
6. Three (3) **letters of recommendation**, at least 2 from an academic source familiar with the student’s academic ability (copies of letters used for department/program application are appropriate). The nomination letter (see item 2) is *not* included in the 3-letter minimum. If your department/program does not require 3 letters of recommendation for your graduate application process, then please indicate this in your nomination letter to explain why fewer than 3 letters of recommendation are included in the packet. Please include at least 2 letters of recommendation in this case.
7. **Unofficial transcripts** (undergraduate, and graduate as appropriate)
8. If the student is eligible for the McNair Fellowship (refer to the student’s university application to confirm whether they indicated they were McNair participants), include a letter from the McNair Director at the university the student previously attended.
9. If the student is eligible for the AmeriCorps/VISTA/Teach for America/Missouri Advising Corps program, include evidence of participation in the relevant program and the number of years of participation.

# Selection Process

All nomination files will be reviewed to ensure that they are complete and that the nominees meet the Graduate School criteria for fellowships. The complete files will be evaluated by a Graduate Fellowship Committee of faculty reviewers. Approximately 4-5 reviewers from a pool of approximately 30-40 faculty members who represent graduate academic fields across the campus will review each application. No nominee will be reviewed by a faculty member from their home department/program. The reviewers will evaluate each nominee’s strengths. The scores from these evaluations will be tabulated and will serve to rank the nominees as the basis for the final award decisions made by the Graduate School. The committee will evaluate each nominee in terms of:

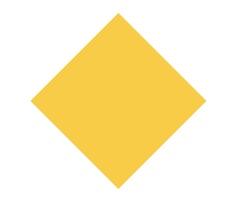
* Student qualifications such as undergraduate and/or graduate (as appropriate) grade performance in the last 2 years of undergraduate work, including research and scholarly experiences, graduate-level performance if applicable, and letters of recommendation.
* Student commitment to graduate education in the field or discipline, as shown in the student’s personal statement and letters of recommendation.
* Fit with MU and department/program, as shown in the student’s personal statement and the department’s/program’s letter of support.
* Department/program commitment to cost sharing for the fellowship award, as indicated by the fellowship guidelines, assistantship offer letter, and the department’s/program’s nomination letter.

# Announcement of Awards & Notification of Acceptance or Rejection of Award

Award decisions about nominations for new fellowships submitted by the deadline will be announced typically no later than the end of the **first full week of March**.

* Departments/programs will be notified about the status of all nominees.
* The departments/programs are then responsible for notifying individual students of their status, including those who were not selected for an award.
* The Graduate School will provide a template with suggested language for the notification letters sent by departments/programs to the students. In addition, Graduate School staff are glad to help further recruit these students, including corresponding with them if requested and appropriate.
* Departments/programs will be notified when a student is an alternate for a fellowship and then will be notified if, and when, an award becomes available.
* It is crucial that departments/programs let the Graduate School know as soon as possible if their awarded students accept or reject the offer so that alternates can be informed in a timely manner. *(Note: Please remember that, based on the CGS April 15 Resolution, students have until April 15 to notify you of their decision to accept or reject a funded offer.)*

**Deferring a Fellowship Award:**

Graduate students who have been awarded fellowships can request a deferral of their implementation by writing a letter that indicates the reasons and the expected duration for the deferral, addressed to the Associate Dean in the Graduate School. Reinstatement requires a letter of request and fellowship renewal materials, submitted during the semester before the fellowship is to be reinstated. *(Note: Departments/programs must determine whether a student may defer admission to their program; the Graduate School only manages deferment of fellowship awards.)*

# Tuition Waivers (GSSP)

Students who receive fellowship support also receive a waiver of resident tuition and non-resident tuition (if applicable) through the Graduate Student Support Program (GSSP). Courses that are relevant and applicable to a student’s degree program, and those approved by the advisor, are covered by the GSSP scholarship/waiver, up to the graduate tuition rate for that program. That is, GSSP does not cover courses that are not listed on the student’s program of study or otherwise approved by the advisor, nor the cost of incidental fees, such as computing, activity, health, or other supplemental fees. If a course is charged at a higher rate than the graduate tuition rate, but is an approved course and paid through MyZou, the GSSP will cover up to the graduate tuition rate and the difference will be the responsibility of the student, unless the department makes arrangements to pay the difference.

A student’s GSSP support can be suspended when a student is on academic probation or does not meet the criteria for fellowships requiring a particular GPA or another aspect of progress toward degree. For more information about the limits on the amount of time students can be covered and other ways graduate students can qualify for this program, refer to the website: <https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/tuition-support-program/>. The contact person for this program is Ms. Karen Gruen, 884-2326, [gruenk@missouri.edu](mailto:gruenk@missouri.edu).

Please note that if a student is funded on a grant as part of the department’s cost share for the fellowship, the grant must cover tuition and insurance costs as allowable. Cost-share tuition waiver request form: <https://gradschool.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cost-share-fee-waiver-request-form.pdf>

# Procedures for Renewal of Multi-Year Awards

Graduate students who have been awarded multi-year awards will receive a message to their University email account late in the spring semester from the Graduate School informing them that their award is renewable if conditions for continued support are met. Upon receipt of the notice from the Graduate School, students should follow the directions indicated in the letter regarding confirmation of their intended continuation with the fellowship and verification of adequate progress. If this information has been received, graduate students will be notified via email whether their fellowship is renewed in June.

**Renewal of Doctoral Fellowships for a 5th Year of Funding:**

The Graduate School encourages fellowship students to apply for prestigious external fellowships. See our [External Fellowships](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/external-fellowships/) webpage for more information on fellowships and how to identify opportunities. The pursuit of an external fellowship provides a student with the valuable experience of learning how to find and apply for external funding.

If the student receives an external fellowship, then that will replace the Graduate School fellowship funding. In other words, the Graduate School fellowship will be discontinued during the year(s) the student receives external support.

Beginning with students who receive a Graduate School doctoral fellowship for the first time for academic year 2023-24,\*students will be eligible to receive a 5th year of fellowship funding only if they apply for an external fellowship and do not receive the external funding. Fellowship students should contact Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” Bent (Research and Grant Development Specialist) in the Graduate School to notify the Graduate School of their plans for applying for a prestigious fellowship.

In the rare case that a prestigious fellowship application opportunity cannot be identified for a doctoral fellowship student’s area of study, then the student may petition for a 5th year of funding by emailing Dr. Bent ([benteo@missouri.edu](mailto:benteo@missouri.edu)) by no later than the last day of the spring semester prior to the 5th year. The student and their faculty mentor must confirm that after exhaustive searching, they have found no suitable funding opportunities.

\*Students who were awarded a Graduate School doctoral fellowship prior to AY 2023-2024 will not be required to apply for a prestigious external fellowship to be eligible for a 5th year of funding. All fellowship students, however, are encouraged to apply for external funding.

**Suspensions of Renewal:**

Conditions that could result in suspension of a multi-year renewal award:

* Not maintaining the required GPA.
* Probationary status automatically disqualifies a student for continuation, unless the department demonstrates extenuating circumstances.
* Not maintaining full-time enrollment in credit-bearing graduate-level courses.
* Failing to meet criteria set for Graduate School fellowships in general, or for a specific fellowship program.
* Not making adequate annual academic progress as defined by the department (student must be informed by the department on why adequate progress is not being met in relation to department’s policies); reviews for doctoral students are managed through MyVita.
* Any employment in total of more than 28 hours per week on average at MU.
* Being “off campus” for half of a semester or more. For absences from campus for such periods of time that are in line with the academic progress of the student (e.g., data collection for a dissertation), the fellowship can be maintained if the department maintains its financial commitment (e.g., assistantship or departmental fellowship). In the case of programs that require an internship for degree completion, the department/program may be excused from their departmental contribution. Contact the Associate Dean of the Graduate School during the renewal process to confirm the fellowship cost-share for the student.
* If the student is offered another fellowship, the Graduate School will work with the student to determine their continued eligibility for a Graduate School fellowship and to develop an appropriate support package.

**Extensions of Awards that Have Expired:**

Requests for extensions of one semester or one year must be initiated by the department/program. Extensions will be granted only under extremely unusual circumstances and are subject to the availability of funds. Consideration for an extension will require following instructions for the Renewal of Multi-Year Awards, with letters from the student and the department/program addressed to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, as well as the assistantship funding letter from the department/program. The request must indicate compelling reasons why an extension should be granted and include the expected completion date for the student to obtain the graduate degree. **Extension requests for the following semester or year may not be considered after April 30, 2023.** Decisions about extension requests may be delayed pending completion of new and renewal award procedures.

# MU Graduate Fellowships

ALL fellowships are subject to the fellowship funding model outlined on pages 4-6.

**4-Year Doctoral-Level Fellowship Programs**

All of the following programs are reserved for graduate students newly admitted into doctoral degree programs. Each provides 4 years of support, insurance subsidy, and a department/program/university-supported waiver of tuition. Please note that if a student is funded on a grant as part of the department’s contribution for the fellowship, the grant must cover a student’s tuition and insurance costs as allowable, and a cost-share tuition waiver request form (<https://gradschool.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cost-share-fee-waiver-request-form.pdf>[)](http://gradstudies.missouri.edu/forms-downloads/repository/cost-share-fee-waiver-request-form.pdf)) must be completed and approved by the Graduate School.

**Renewal of Doctoral Fellowships for a 5th Year of Funding:**

The Graduate School encourages fellowship students to apply for prestigious external fellowships. See our [External Fellowships](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/external-fellowships/) webpage for more information on fellowships and how to identify opportunities. The pursuit of an external fellowship provides a student with the valuable experience of learning how to find and apply for external funding.

If the student receives an external fellowship, then that will replace the Graduate School fellowship funding. In other words, the Graduate School fellowship will be discontinued during the year(s) the student receives external support.

Beginning with students who receive a Graduate School doctoral fellowship for the first time for academic year 2023-24,\*students will be eligible to receive a 5th year of fellowship funding only if they apply for an external fellowship and do not receive the external funding. Fellowship students should contact Dr. Elizabeth “Liz” Bent (Research and Grant Development Specialist) in the Graduate School to notify the Graduate School of their plans for applying for a prestigious fellowship.

In the rare case that a prestigious fellowship application opportunity cannot be identified for a doctoral fellowship student’s area of study, then the student may petition for a 5th year of funding by emailing Dr. Bent ([benteo@missouri.edu](mailto:benteo@missouri.edu)) by no later than the last day of the spring semester prior to the 5th year. The student and their faculty mentor must confirm that after exhaustive searching, they have found no suitable funding opportunities.

\*Students who were awarded a Graduate School doctoral fellowship prior to AY 2023-2024 will not be required to apply for a prestigious external fellowship to be eligible for a 5th year of funding. All fellowship students, however, are encouraged to apply for external funding.

**George Washington Carver Fellowships:** Established in 2001 by the chancellor of the University of Missouri, the G. W. Carver Fellowship is awarded to the most highly ranked fellowship nominee who is a US citizen, newly accepted into a doctoral degree program in any field, and a member of an underrepresented minority population (i.e., African American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, or Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latinx). The nominee must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

**William Gregory Fellowships:** Endowed by St. Louis dry goods merchant, Charles R. Gregory, in memory of his brother, William, the Gregory Fellowship has since 1914 furthered the academic careers of many of MU’s most outstanding graduate students. Awards can be made to doctoral students in any discipline. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Adeline Hoffman Fellowships:** Established in 1981, this program is for newly admitted doctoral students who have and maintain a 3.5 GPA, with special consideration for those in a human sciences area (e.g., Anthropology, Architectural Studies, Biochemistry, Communication, History, Human Development and Family Science, Nutrition and Exercise Physiology, Philosophy, Psychology, and Textile and Apparel Management). International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**G. Ellsworth Huggins Scholarships:** This program was established in 1979 with a $3.5 million bequest from G. Ellsworth Huggins, the largest gift up to that date received by the University of Missouri. Awards can be made to doctoral students in any field, with special consideration given to students from Huggins’s birthplace (Barton County, MO), especially graduates from schools in Lamar, MO (please note in the nomination letter if the student is from this area). Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Stanley L. Maxwell Scholarships:** This program was established in 2001 with a gift from the Maxwell estate. It provides merit scholarships for graduate students. Nominees for this 5-year doctoral award must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Gus T. Ridgel Fellowships:** 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 (i.e., African American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latinx) in any field at the University of Missouri. Recipients must be US citizens. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

**Robert E. Waterston Award:** Established in 2001 by Robert E. Waterston, this 5-year doctoral award is used to support doctoral students and can be made to graduate students in any discipline. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship.

**Master’s, Specialist, or Doctoral Fellowships**

**AmeriCorps/VISTA/Teach for America/Missouri Advising Corps Graduate Fellowships:** Established in 1998, this program is designed to reward volunteers who recently completed assignments in these service organizations and are accepted into master’s, specialist, or doctoral degree programs in fields related to their prior service and oriented toward a relevant career. Awardees receive support for years equal to the number of years of service in AmeriCorps, VISTA, Teach for America, or Missouri Advising Corps. The fellowship amount is equivalent to the current minimum stipend for a .25 FTE assistantship from the Graduate School. The nomination materials must include evidence of the number of years of AmeriCorps/VISTA/Teach for America/Missouri Advising Corps service. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. Master’s fellowships are for up to two years, and doctoral fellowships are up to 4 years (with eligibility for renewal for a 5th year).

**David R. Francis Fellowships:** With an endowment from former Missouri Governor David R. Francis (1850-1927), this fellowship program was established in 1927. Awards are for graduate students newly admitted into master’s or doctoral degree programs in either public affairs or creative literature. The nomination materials for this fellowship program from creative literature applicants must include an original composition. International students are eligible for nomination for this fellowship. Master’s fellowships are for up to two years, and doctoral fellowships are up to 4 years (with eligibility for renewal for a 5th year).

**Ronald E. McNair Fellowships:** Established in 2001, this program is named in honor of Ronald E. McNair (1950-1986), physicist, astronaut, and crew member of the space shuttle Challenger. The program is designed to support newly admitted master’s, specialist, or doctoral students in any field who successfully completed a Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at a university prior to beginning the MU graduate program. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA. Fellowship applicants must include a letter from the McNair Director at the Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at the university where they completed the McNair Program. Master’s fellowships are for up to two years, and doctoral fellowships are up to 4 years (with eligibility for renewal for a 5th year).

**Master’s- or Specialist-Level Fellowships**

**Graduate School Fellowships:** This fellowship program is designed to assist departments in recruiting and retaining graduate students who are US citizens and have been newly admitted to a master’s or specialist degree program at MU in any field. Support is for up to 2 years from the Graduate School. Nominees must 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 newly admitted master’s students from underrepresented minority populations (i.e., African American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native, Hispanic or Latinx). Recipients must be US citizens. Support is for up to 2 years. Nominees must have and maintain a 3.5 GPA.

**Extramural Funding Programs**

Individual students are encouraged to apply directly for external fellowships. The Graduate School provides [information](https://gradschool.missouri.edu/funding/assistantships-fellowships/external-fellowships/) about external funding opportunities and searchable databases. In addition to financial support, winners of external fellowships typically qualify for a university-supported waiver of tuition and a medical insurance subsidy, unless the award program from the funding organization is designed to cover such costs (e.g., NSF GRFP). Students with qualifying external fellowships should notify the Graduate School and must have their stipends and other payments made by the external agency through the MU Financial Aid Office. Students who receive a prestigious fellowship may no longer be eligible for Graduate School Fellowship Program funding during the years they receive the external funding.

**Departmental/Program Support**

Departments/programs administer many fellowships, scholarships, traineeships, and other financial assistance programs for graduate students. For additional information, students should contact the unit’s department chair/director or DGS.

# **Departmental Nomination Form**

*For fellowship nominees entering 2023-2024 academic year*

**Nominee Information:**

**Nominee’s Full Name:**   
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Nominee’s preferred name and pronouns (optional):   
  
**Nominee’s Email Address:**

**MU Student ID Number:**

Special fellowships that this student is eligible for (check any that apply):   
  
 AmeriCorps/Vista… \_\_\_ Marshall \_\_\_\_ McNair \_\_\_\_ Ridgel \_\_\_\_ Hoffman \_\_\_\_ Francis \_\_\_\_  
  
Is the student a TigerView participant?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**MU Department:**

**Department/program name:**

**Degree program (check one):** Master’s/EdS \_\_\_ PhD \_\_\_   
  
**Name of Faculty Advisor:**

**Colleges/Universities Attended (list most recent first):**  
Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
  
Dates Attended:

Department:   
Degree Program (if different than department name):   
Degree Received (e.g., MA):

Cumulative GPA (out of 4.0): GPA in Major (out of 4.0):  
  
Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
  
Dates Attended:

Department:   
Degree Program (if different than department name):   
Degree Received (e.g., MA):

Cumulative GPA (out of 4.0): GPA in Major (out of 4.0):   
  
  
Institution Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
  
Dates Attended:

Department:   
Degree Program (if different than department name):   
Degree Received (e.g., MA):

Cumulative GPA (out of 4.0): GPA in Major (out of 4.0):   
  
  
**Nominator Signatures**  
Your signature confirms that (1) the student has completed the MU Graduate Application Form, (2) your department has accepted this student for the above degree program, (3) your department is committed to supporting the student according to the fellowship guidelines, including providing the student with a graduate assistantship, and (4) you understand that the fellowship does not replace funds that the department must provide for the level of assistantship provided to the student.  
  
Date:

Department Chair/Director Name (printed):

Director of Graduate Studies Name (printed):   
  
Department Chair/Director Signature:

Director of Graduate Studies Signature: