

University of Missouri Dissertation Year Fellowships

Student self-nominated via [Slate](#)

Due date: June 27, 2025

There are two named University of Missouri Dissertation Year Fellowships, the Gamma Alpha Gamma and Raymond White Dissertation Year Fellowships. These fellowships are intended to help defray dissertation research expenses in the same academic year that students defend their dissertation. The award amount is equivalent to the minimum stipend for a .25 assistantship. MU doctoral students who will be in the **final year** of their graduate program in AY 2025-2026, who have demonstrated excellent research and/or teaching skills are eligible to apply.

The **Gamma Alpha Gamma Dissertation Year Fellowship** provides a supplement to an already-existing research or teaching assistantship, or other source of funding (e.g., clinical internship), in the final year of a student's doctoral work. The money comes from the repurposed Gamma Alpha Gamma student loan program. Gamma Alpha Gamma was a graduate/professional fraternity with an active chapter on the MU campus for many years. Members of Gamma Alpha Gamma often lived and took meals at the fraternity house, which, in its last incarnation, was on Virginia Avenue in Greek Town. When the house was sold, influential alumni of the fraternity, including William Stringer, Charles Cramer, Ralph Anderson, Allan Purdy, Ray Schroeder, and Ray Rothenberger dedicated the proceeds to the endowed loan program. In the ensuing 35 years, we have learned that fellowships are a more effective way to support graduate education than loans, hence the change in focus of the fund.

The **Raymond White Dissertation Year Fellowship** provides a supplement to an already-existing research or teaching assistantship, or other source of funding (e.g., clinical internship), in the final year of the student's doctoral work. The money comes from the repurposed Raymond White Graduate Student Loan Fund that was established in 1974 as part of Mr. White's generous estate gift to the University of Missouri. In the ensuing 35 years, we have learned that fellowships are a more effective way to support graduate education than loans, hence the change in the focus of the fund.

Doctoral students may self-nominate for these fellowships. Each nomination will be considered for both awards, although a student can only receive one award.

Eligibility: MU doctoral students in good standing may apply. To receive a fellowship, students must have passed their comprehensive exams by the last day of the 8-week summer session of the current year's summer semester. Also, there must be at least 7 months between the successful completion of the comprehensive exam and dissertation defense. Students must also be committed to completing all requirements for graduation, including the successful defense of a dissertation, in the year of the fellowship.

Due: Last day of first 4-week Summer Session: June 27, 2025

Application Submission Materials

Submit the following by June 27, 2025 via the Dissertation Year Fellowship form in [Slate](#)

1. Letter of application (2-page limit) uploaded as a PDF
 - a. This letter should include (1) your interest in the fellowship, (2) who you are as a scholar (e.g., what you study, your interest), and (3) your scholarly goals for the year of the fellowship.
2. CV (2-page limit) uploaded as a PDF
3. Statement of experiences and expertise (2-page limit) uploaded as a PDF
 - a. We value the uniqueness of every individual and strive to ensure each person's success. Contributions from individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives promote intellectual pluralism and enable us to achieve the excellence that we seek in learning, research, and engagement. This commitment makes our university a better place to work, learn, and innovate. Please discuss your experiences and expertise that support these values and enrich our missions of teaching, research, and engagement.
4. Letter of reference (one required)
 - a. You must provide the email address of your current PhD advisor in the Slate application. Upon submission of your form, your advisor will receive an email with a link to upload their letter.
 - i. This letter should outline their support for you as a student, why your work is important, and how they will support your final year as a doctoral student. This letter must state that they have confidence that you will complete your dissertation and have your degree conferred by Spring 2026.
5. Career Goals (1-page limit) upload as PDF
 - a. Briefly discuss your career goals (e.g., what type(s) of positions do you plan to apply for, what is your ideal career pathway)
6. Department Commitment – upload as PDF
 - a. Upload a letter on letterhead, signed by the DGS and/or Department Chair confirming that the department will cover a .25FTE assistantship (or fellowship) if you receive a Dissertation Year Fellowship.