

**Office of Graduate Diversity
Initiatives (OGDI)
Assistantships, Fellowships
and Programs
Guide**

(2020-2021)

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OGDI OVERVIEW:

The Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives (OGDI) supports all UF graduate students through various programs and services. Though OGDI supports all graduate students, it has a particular interest in serving as a source of support for students belonging to the following groups: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Native Alaskans (Eskimo or Aleut), or Pacific Islanders (Micronesians or Polynesians), and members of other underrepresented groups in graduate education.

OGDI manages several fellowships and programs including the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship, the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Feeder Program, the Santa Fe College / University of Florida Faculty Development Project, the McNair Graduate Assistantship Program, the Florida Board of Education (BOE) Summer Fellowship Program, the Supplemental Retention Scholarship, the Edward Bouchet National Honor Society and the Auzenne Dissertation Award for PhD students.

ASSISTANTSHIPS

McNair Graduate Assistantship Program

The purpose of the Ronald E. McNair Doctoral Program at the University of Florida (UF) is to enroll and support selected students who participated in McNair undergraduate research programs across the nation. The national goal of the McNair Doctoral Program is to increase the number of PhD recipients from underrepresented segments of our society.

At UF, the program is a collaboration between the Graduate School and participating departments. Under this collaboration, departments will agree to provide McNair Doctoral scholars with at least a 0.33 FTE research or teaching assistantship (RA/TA) for the first two years. To provide an enhanced overall stipend, the departmental RA/TA stipend will be augmented by a \$12,000 supplement over that period from the Graduate School. The Graduate School will cover tuition, fees and health insurance for the first two years. For the third through fifth years, departments must agree to provide a RA/TA at the 0.5 FTE rate as well as cover tuition, fees and health insurance. See Table 1 for the funding structure.

Basic McNair Doctoral Funding Structure:

	Years 1-2	Years 3-5
Department	Assistantship stipend at the 0.33 FTE level (\$14,080)	Assistantship stipend at the 0.50 FTE level, tuition (9 credits Fall/Spring; 6 credits Summer), fees and health insurance
Graduate School	\$12,000 Stipend supplement, tuition (9 credits Fall/Spring; 6 credits Summer), fees and health insurance	

Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must have successfully completed the McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program as an undergraduate student and be admitted as a full-time PhD student at UF.
- This program is intended to increase enrollment in PhD programs, thus currently enrolled PhD students are not eligible.
- Interested students must apply to the Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives, 123 Grinter Hall, by the posted deadline.

Requirements for consideration:

- Admission to a UF Ph.D. program
- Completed McNair Assistantship application form
- Letter from the undergraduate McNair Program indicating successful completion.

The University of Florida/Santa Fe College Faculty Development Project

The UF/Santa Fe College Faculty Development Project is a partnership between UF and Santa Fe College (SFC) that aims to increase faculty diversity at SFC while providing minority and underrepresented doctoral students at UF with valuable teaching experience.

Program overview:

- Participant teach at minimum two courses per year at SFC, 1 course per Fall and 1 per Spring (Summer is not included).
- Students also receive compensation for the courses taught at Santa Fe at the current rate per credit hour per SFC's HR policy.
- At UF, participants are appointed as Graduate Assistants (GA) and receive a stipend of \$15,000, 9 credits of tuition, payment of student fees for the Fall and Spring Semesters, and health insurance.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Students must hold a master's degree in a specified field (which varies based on SFC's need) or have a written statement from their department stating they have completed enough academic work for a master's degree.
- Students must be admitted in a doctoral program at the University of Florida
- Must meet all Santa Fe Adjunct Faculty hiring criteria.
- Must have passed qualifying and written exams and be a PhD candidate.

Application Process

- Students must submit a completed UF/Santa Fe College Faculty Development Project Application.
- Once selected, the student must complete the online Santa Fe College Employment application.
- Students must be recommended for this program by their degree granting departments. This includes a letter of recommendation from their academic advisor and a second letter from their Graduate Coordinator documenting their academic progress.
- Students must also submit a current plan of study, showing the courses they plan to register for, as well as unofficial academic transcripts.
- Students must also submit an essay describing their experiences with and commitment to (1) making meaningful contributions to a diverse academic community, (2) sharing your understanding of racial/ethnic issues in the practice of your chosen field or profession, and (3) contributing to the greater good of society at large. This essay should be limited to 400-500 words.

Employment

- Participants must teach two courses at SFC during a calendar year (Fall and Spring,).
- Participants in the program may not concurrently hold another UF teaching assistantship. **However, student will be allowed to hold a 0.25 FTE Research Assistantship while on this program. An additional UF Teaching assistantship is not allowed while on this program.** OGD I should be notified before the beginning of the fall term of any additional appointment the student will hold.

International Students - Students in this program will be employees of SFC. If their visa allows them to work at a place outside UF, they would be eligible. However, the students should first seek confirmation from the International Center before starting the application process. We do not verify work eligibility in our office. It is the student’s responsibility to do so prior to applying to any of our programs. We do not want to see any student lose residency status due to violating visa guidelines.

Fellowships

The Florida A&M University Graduate Feeder Program

Program Overview:

The Florida A&M University (FAMU) Feeder Program supports selected FAMU students entering PhD programs at the University of Florida (UF). UF is one of more than 40 universities participating in the program. The purpose of FAMU Feeder is to increase the number of FAMU students in graduate programs. UF offers up to five fellowships each year to selected FAMU Feeder students who have been admitted to PhD or MFA programs.

At UF, the program is a collaboration between the Graduate School and participating departments. Under the collaboration, departments will agree to provide FAMU Feeder students with at least a 0.33 FTE research or teaching assistantship (RA/TA) for the first three years. To provide an enhanced overall stipend, the departmental RA/TA stipend will be augmented by a \$12,000 supplement over that period from the Graduate School. The Graduate School will cover tuition, fees, health insurance for the first three years as well. For the fourth and fifth years, departments must agree to provide a RA/TA at the 0.5 FTE rate as well as cover tuition, fee and health insurance.

MFA students will receive a total of 3 years of support, with the Graduate School providing a supplemental stipend of \$12,000, tuition, fees and health insurance for year 1-2. The department will provide an Assistantship at the 0.5 FTE level, tuition, fees and health insurance in year 3.

Table 9. FAMU Feeder Program Structure for PhD Students

	Years 1-3	Years 4-5
Department	Assistantship stipend at the 0.33 FTE level	Assistantship stipend at the 0.50 FTE level, tuition (9 credits Fall/Spring; 6 credits Summer), fees and health insurance
Graduate School	\$12,000 Stipend supplement, tuition (9 credits Fall/Spring; 6 credits Summer), fees and health insurance	

Table 10. FAMU Feeder Program Structure for MFA Students

	Years 1-2	Years 3
Department	Assistantship stipend at the 0.33 FTE level	Assistantship stipend at the 0.50 FTE level, tuition (9 credits Fall/Spring; 6 credits Summer), fees and health insurance
Graduate School	\$12,000 Stipend supplement, tuition (9 credits Fall/Spring; 6 credits Summer), fees and health insurance	

Requirements

- A graduate of Florida A&M University
- Admission to UF Ph.D. or MFA program
- Letter from FAMU Graduate Feeder office confirming participation

Application Process

- Students interested in the University of Florida FAMU Feeder Program should apply via the application located on our website, to the Office of Graduate Diversity Initiatives, 123 Grinter Hall, by 5 p.m. on the day of the deadline. A requirement for consideration includes admission to a Ph.D. program at UF.
- OGD I is notified by the FAMU Feeder Program Director of any Feeders who have been accepted into a Graduate Program at the University of Florida or a UF department will notify us of a student who has been admitted to their department and is a FAMU Alumni.

McKnight Doctoral Fellowship

“The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship program is designed to address the under-representation of African American and Hispanic faculty at colleges and universities in the state of Florida by increasing the pool of citizens qualified with PhD degrees to teach at the college and university levels.” (Florida Education Foundation, 2016)

Program Overview:

The McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program is an annual award (12-month) that provides a \$12,000 stipend (provided by the Florida Education Fund) and fees for 3 years with the expectation that the participating universities will support the student for an additional 2 years. At the University of Florida (UF), these awards will be used as supplements to enhance research and teaching assistant (RA/TA) stipends for PhD students selected as McKnight Doctoral Fellows.

Participating departments must agree to support McKnight Doctoral Fellows by providing, at a minimum, a .33 FTE graduate research or teaching assistantship (RA/TA) with appropriate stipends for the first four years. For years 1-3, RA/TA stipends will be augmented by FEF with the \$12,000 McKnight award and fees. The Graduate School will cover tuition for the RA/TA at 9 credits for Fall and Spring and 6 credits for Summer, and health insurance for the first 3 years. In the fourth year, the Graduate School will provide the \$12,000 supplemental stipend and fees. The participating departments will provide assistantships of at least the .33 FTE level, and cover tuition and health insurance. For the fifth year, if needed, participating departments must agree to provide a .50 FTE RA/TA and tuition and health insurance. The Graduate School will provide a \$6,500 supplement to augment the fifth-year stipend and will pay the student’s fees.

Funding Options:

Table 1. Basic Structure (Minimum Support)
Total Stipend is \$26,080 for per Year for Five Years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees		
Department	Department assistantship: at least .33 FTE stipend at \$14,080 for 12 months	Department assistantship: minimum of .33 FTE stipend at \$14,080 for 12 months, plus health insurance	Department assistantship: minimum stipend of \$19,580 tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees

Table 2. McKnight Fellowship + Full Four-Year [GSFA](#)
Total Stipend is \$30,000 per Year for Five years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees		
Department	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$18,000	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$18,000. Department covers health insurance	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$23,500, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees

Table 3. McKnight Fellowship + Full Four-Year **GSPA** Students
Total Stipend is \$36,000 per Year for Five Years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees		
Department	GSPA assistantship stipend at \$22,000, minimum department match at \$2,000	GSPA assistantship stipend at \$22,000, minimum department match at \$2,000. Department covers health insurance	GSPA assistantship stipend at \$22,000; department supplements at \$7,500 and covers tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 Fall/spring; 6 credits summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees

Table 4. McKnight Fellowship + Full Five-Year **GSFA** Students
Total Stipend is \$26,000 per Year for Six Years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees			
Department	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$14,000	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$14,000; department covers health insurance	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$19,500, tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer) and health insurance	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$20,000; department supplements \$6,000 and covers tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees	

Table 5. McKnight Fellowship + Full Five-Year **GSPA** Students
Total Stipend is \$30,000 per Year for Six Years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees			
Department	GSPA assistantship stipend at \$16,000, minimum department match at \$2,000	GSPA assistantship stipend at \$16,000, minimum department match at \$2,000. Department covers health insurance	GSPA assistantship stipend at \$21,500; department supplements at \$2,000 and covers tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance	GSPA assistantship stipend \$16,000; department supplements at \$14,000 and covers tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 fall/spring; 6 summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees	

Table 6. McKnight Fellowship + Four-Year **GSFA** \$6,000 Top-up
Total Stipend is \$30,000 per Year for Five years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees		
Department	GSFA top-up of \$6,000 along with departmental assistantship stipend at \$12,000	GSFA top-up of \$6,000 along with departmental assistantship stipend at \$12,000. Department covers health insurance	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$23,500, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees

Table 7. McKnight Fellowship + Four-Year GSFA \$5,000 Top-up
Total Stipend is \$30,000 per Year for Five years

Funding Source	Years 1-3	Year 4	Year 5
FEF (McKnight)	\$12,000 stipend and fees		
Department	GSFA top-up of \$6,000 along with departmental assistantship stipend at \$13,000	GSFA top-up of \$6,000 along with departmental assistantship stipend at \$12,000. Department covers health insurance	GSFA assistantship stipend at \$23,500, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance
Graduate School	Tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer), plus health insurance	\$12,000 stipend, tuition credits (9 fall/spring, 6 summer) and fees	\$6,500 stipend and fees

Requirements

- Admission to a Ph.D. program at UF
- Completed and accepted McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Application
- McKnight Doctoral Fellowships are limited to African American and Hispanic-American students who are US citizens. **Permanent residents do not qualify.**
- A complete UF McKnight agreement on file (submitted by the department)

Application Process

- To be considered, students must submit a McKnight Doctoral Fellowship application at the Florida Education Fund website: <http://www.fefonline.org/mdfapply>
- The application is due January 15th of each year
- OGD I receives a list of McKnight applicants who have also applied to UF in late February. Once we have this list, we will reach out to departments to create funding agreements (as per the tables above) in anticipation of students being awarded.
- FEF typically makes McKnight decisions by late April and notifies students directly. Once OGD I receives the list of students awarded, we will follow up with departments to complete the funding agreement and paperwork

PROGRAMS

Board of Education Summer Fellowship Program

The BOE Summer Fellowship Program, held during Summer B of every year since 1978, is designed to prepare students in underrepresented groups in graduate education who are US citizens or permanent residents of the US, who have been admitted to a PhD program at the University of Florida and plan to begin their programs of study in the Fall semester.

The BOE program includes activities and seminars to help participants learn about the University's academic programs and policies, various support services, the academic environment, and strategies to maintain a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher. Participants are provided the opportunity to meet minority faculty and staff as well as current minority graduate students. Participants in the BOE Summer Program receive a \$3,500 stipend to assist them in covering living expenses and tuition and fees for 4 credit hours. **Masters students will not be considered for this award this includes MFA.**

Requirements

- Admission to a Ph.D. program at the University of Florida
- The BOE Summer Fellowship is limited to members of underrepresented groups in graduate education.
- Student admission dates are changed from Fall semester to Summer B.

Application Process

- All admitted doctoral students from underrepresented backgrounds in graduate education are invited to apply for the program. Typically, up to 40 fellows are accepted.
- Admitted students must complete an application via GIMS, which includes: A short essay explaining their interest in the Board of Education Summer Program at the University of Florida and a brief description of their long and short-term academic and professional goals.
- **This is a non-renewable fellowship. It is only for students who will be attending the University of Florida for the first time as PhD students.**

OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Delores Auzenne Dissertation Award

The Auzenne Dissertation Award is designed to assist underrepresented minority students in completing their dissertation work. It should be reasonably assured that students receiving the Auzenne award will complete their dissertations in the timeframe indicated on their application.

The Delores Auzenne Dissertation Award is a competitively awarded program available for underrepresented non-STEM PhD students in the writing stage of their dissertation. Applicants may not receive a fellowship, assistantship or other funding with this award. The award provides **up to** 1.5 semesters of support which includes tuition assistance (no fees) for up-to two to three hours of dissertation credits, and a stipend. The student is responsible for any additional costs and service fees related to their enrollment.

Awards will be granted twice a year and students may receive up to \$15,000.00 to support their graduate studies. Each award will be dispersed in two equal parts during the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters.

Below are the award amounts for each semester.

Fall \$9,000

Spring \$9,000

Summer A or B \$3,000

Summer C \$6,000

Eligibility:

- Preference is given to applicants who are members of an underrepresented group.
- Applicant must be actively engaged in the dissertation writing stage.
- Applicant's dissertation chair must submit evidence of the applicant's writing progress with the application and give updates on students' progress.
- Applicant must be a Florida resident for 1 year preceding the award of aid (Florida Statute 240.404).
- Applicant must NOT hold any other assistantship or fellowship.
- Applicant must apply with all required materials. Applicants should submit a sealed signed letter of recommendation from a professor with their application packet. The professor may also email the recommendation letter directly to OGD.

Diversity Enhancement Awards

The Graduate Diversity Enhancement Award is designed to enhance the diversity of the graduate student body. UF acknowledges that students from historically underrepresented groups bring new perspectives that enrich the fields of graduate study and enhance academic dialog. This award provides up to \$5,000 per year for 4 years of additional funds to increase the total stipend, thereby making the department's offer more competitive. This award must be coupled with an initial stipend offered by the department and cannot be coupled to any other Graduate School funding.

Academic units must clearly show that this award will make a difference in the applicant choosing UF. Rationale for the award amount requested, details of the nominee's academic merit, and supporting documentation of the applicant's academic qualification must be provided along with this nomination form. Awards are granted based on available funds and academic merit of nominees. **This award should be offered during the recruitment phase and not after the student is preparing to enroll.**

Eligibility:

- Only incoming, 1st year doctoral students are eligible.
- Awardees will be chosen by Graduate School Dean based upon the Diversity Enhancement Award Nomination forms submitted by UF academic units during the recruitment process
- Departments will be notified of the Dean's final decision in writing.

Award: Awards are up to \$5,000 for up to 4 years (with a potential 5th year granted per the Dean's discretion). **Final award selection is made by the Dean of the Graduate School after internal review and verification by the Director or Associate Dean.** Each award will be dispersed via payroll by the academic unit. OGD will notify Mrs. Stephanie Nielsen for payroll processing.

Supplemental Retention Scholarship Program

The Supplemental Retention Scholarship Program is for students who have no more than three terms to complete their degree requirements at UF and are no longer eligible to receive a fellowship, assistantship, or other College/Department level funding. The OGD-SRP is designed to assist students to complete their degree program by providing limited tuition assistance.

The tuition assistance is not cash, employment, nor is it a full tuition or fee waiver. The supplemental assistance is toward partial payment of in-state tuition for PhD students who are without funding for the current semester.

Requirements:

- Student must be currently enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Florida.
- Student must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 and making acceptable progress toward completion of their degree program
- Student must have no more than three terms to complete their degree requirements.
- Student must be a previous recipient of an assistantship, a fellowship, or college/departmental level funding
- This award covers tuition at the in-state rate only

Application Process:

- Students should apply on or before the posted deadline. Applications are available at the OGD I website.
- The application asks for the following attachments:
 1. A letter from the graduate coordinator and their academic advisor documenting status and progress toward the degree for the term in which the student applies.
 2. A copy of the most recent income tax return. A complete copy is required unless the student filed as a dependent on his/her parents' return. If so, student must attach a copy of the first page of the tax return, which lists the student as a dependent, with the income amount blocked out.
 3. An essay describing their experience with and commitment to diversity.

Students applying for supplemental retention funding may not hold **any** graduate assistantship or fellowship.

Applications for supplemental retention funding must be submitted each semester. Student may receive this award for up to 3 terms.