

The 2021 Graduate School Summer Fellowship Program (GSSF)

Purpose

To provide students with financial support during a time when they may be most productive yet have the fewest funding options, the summer.

Assumptions

Students will utilize the three summer months to dedicate significant effort to their research project, thereby making timely progress to the degree. The GSSF is designed to replace a TA or other summer job that takes the student away from their research.

Eligibility and Requirements (*there are no exceptions*)

- Doctoral (Ph.D./Ed.D) student
- Enrolled full-time in the 2020-2021 academic year
- Must pass the **qualifying exam and proposal defense** by **May 15th, 2021**
- GPA 3.0 or greater
- Will not hold a summer job, including a TA or RA
- Will be mentored/supervised by the student's dissertation advisor
- Applications may be rejected for not following guidelines, below, and none will be accepted after the deadline.

Support

\$6,000 paid at the end of May, provided eligibility has been met (successful qualifying exam, proposal defense and GPA).

Application Components and Procedure

1. **Project Proposal:** Prepare a proposal for the completion of your dissertation project – the remaining work for the summer and to graduation – written for someone in your general field. The proposal is limited to **800 words**, not including references or figure legends, and must include:
 - An introduction to the field and its importance,
 - Gaps in knowledge and questions/hypotheses to be addressed,
 - Tools used to address them,
 - Potential significance of the outcome to your field of study
2. **Timeline (not included in the 800 words):** Submit a timeline illustrating your plan to complete the project. The timeline may include dates beyond the summer, leading to your anticipated graduation.
3. **Anticipated Graduation (not included in the 800 words):** Indicate your year and semester of anticipated graduation.
4. **Curriculum Vitae (CV, also not included in the 800 words).**

Compile the above four components into one pdf file and upload it with the completed online [application form](#) by March 12th, 2021, 11:59pm.

A committee of faculty members will review applications and provide decisions no later than April 15th, 2020.

Review Criteria and Scoring System (50 points total)

1. Explanation of novelty and significance of the project
 - a. Introduction to the field, why it is important - 10
 - b. Gap(s) in knowledge identified - 10
2. Hypotheses or questions the project aims to answer
 - a. How will the above be tested/answered? – 5
 - b. Explanation of methods and analysis of data - 5
 - c. Novel approaches or techniques identified - 5
3. Overall significance of the project articulated (not judging the significance, but the student's ability to articulate a significance) - 15

Please read the entire document before responding with questions. Email gradfunding@uncc.edu if your answer is not contained here.

Disclaimer

Funding for the GSSF Program is available in summer 2021 from one-time money; therefore, there is no commitment or expectation that additional funding will be available in subsequent years.