



# The UM Institutional SREB Doctoral Fellowship Program



The Graduate School and Academic Departments at the University of Mississippi (UM) sponsor up to six “Institutional SREB Fellowships” per academic year for doctoral students (scholars). The Southern Regional Education Educational Board (SREB) administers this fellowship opportunity through its Doctoral Scholars Program ([http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral\\_scholars.html](http://www.sreb.org/page/1074/doctoral_scholars.html)).

Departments providing assistantships may nominate scholars to receive this award. If selected the scholar will be eligible for three (3) years of support under this program. *The departmental nomination process will consist of a one-page profile of the student being nominated outlining their academic merits and any additional supporting material.* The nomination may be e-mailed to the Graduate School in care of Michelle Dickson ([mdickson@olemiss.edu](mailto:mdickson@olemiss.edu)) with the subject line: “SREB Institutional Nomination”. Nominations are due by March 1<sup>st</sup> for fall funding. Inquiries, questions and nominations for this fellowship may be directed to [mdickson@olemiss.edu](mailto:mdickson@olemiss.edu). Additional information may be found on the Graduate School’s webpage:

## Departmental Criteria

- Must nominate only students underrepresented in graduate education and admitted to a Doctoral Program on the Oxford Campus
- Must commit a departmental stipend of at least a half-time appointment to scholar for at least 3 years (pending satisfactory progress as determined by department)

## Scholar’s Criteria

- An under-represented student accepted into a Ph.D. program on the Oxford Campus
- Student must receive departmental funding equivalent to at least a half-time appointment each year (> 10K/year for up to three years) and maintain satisfactory academic progress
- A US citizen or resident alien status
- Full-time enrollment (at least 9 graduate hours/semester)
- Must be nominated by department for this fellowship
- Scholar is interested/committed to pursuing an academic career path upon graduation – towards the professorate
- No external employment to the University

## Scholar's Financial Benefits

- A departmental Assistantship (at least at a half-time appointment)
- An annual SREB supplemental stipend of \$2000 (applied to fall and spring semesters)
- A Full tuition waiver (resident and nonresident)
- A Doctoral Scholar Award to attend the “*The Institute*”\* - \$3,250 per year (\$1,500 annual conference; \$1,750 regional program services)
- An opportunity for scholar's UM mentor/advisor to attend the Institute at no charge

### \*“*The Institute*” - Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring

This is the annual conference of the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program. Normally held in late October, this 3-day conference is attended by over a thousand participants from all over the country and features a series of national speakers, workshops and personal mentoring sessions. The conference is heralded as the “largest gathering of minority Ph.D.’s in the country” and is by invitation only.

## Additional Program Benefits (Sponsored by the SREB Doctoral Scholars Program):

- **Regular Contact** - Program initiated contact with scholar throughout the year, maintained by phone, e-mail, listserv, and letter.
- **Progress and Grade Report Reviews** - Ongoing monitoring of a scholar's academic standing.
- **Electronic Newsletter / Listserv / Social Media** - Important notices, topics and points of interests, scholar activities (personal and professional), announcements, and program updates.
- **Counseling / Advocacy** - Assist scholars with problems related to academics, departmental issues, and life outside academe. It is important for scholars to know there are individuals who will advocate for them and mediate academic issues they are unable to resolve.
- **Career Counseling and Placement** - Assist scholars in finding suitable employment opportunities upon completion of the Ph.D. Services include a scholar directory for distribution to prospective employing institutions, and on-site recruitment at the annual Institute. SREB maintains on its Web site a free jobs posting service with searchable job listings specifically for scholars, along with links to outside job search sites for faculty positions in higher education.
- **Promote Good Departmental Practices** - Assist faculty and departmental representatives to consider, plan and execute activities within their departments aimed at ensuring an environment of support. Faculty members are encouraged to provide mentoring through regular communications and attending sessions at the annual Institute.
- **Improve Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation Rates** - Program activities encourage students to enroll in graduate school, to persist through stages of graduate study, to obtain the Ph.D. degree, and to secure faculty positions.

- **Increase Diversity of Faculty Applicant Pool** - Provide access to online Scholar Directory that includes more than 1,300 minority Ph.D. scholars and program graduates. Offer opportunities to recruit at the annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring.
- **Scholar Directory** - Facilitate networking, community building, and collaboration among scholars; provide professional career tracking; and provide a pool of potential faculty for recruiting by institutions interested in diversifying their faculty.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- **Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring** - The Institute is the largest gathering of minority Ph.D. scholars in the nation. The goal of the Institute is to increase scholars' success and satisfaction in graduate school and prepare them to become successful faculty members. Participants meet annually to share experiences, insights and survival tips as well as build professional and personal relationships. Scholars and their faculty mentors (also invited to attend this event) receive the most recent information on college teaching, mentoring, and research; grant writing, etc. from nationally recognized experts and professionals.
- **Junior Faculty Professional Development Conference** - The Junior Faculty Conference aims to assure beginning (first three years of teaching) underrepresented faculty members the knowledge, skills, and opportunity to shore up their qualifications and understanding of the academy to secure tenure and become stable faculty members with solid futures in the academy. Participants learn from one another and experts about the challenges and solutions that befall faculty in preparation for the tenure and promotion process.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Research publications and reports provide educational and legislative leadership with the latest information on race, gender, and ethnicity in the areas of population, economy, government, and education (college participation, completion, affordability, faculty, administrators, and revenue and expenditures).