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 Doctoral Fellowships” per academic year for doctoral students (scholars). The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) administers this fellowship opportunity through its Doctoral Scholars Program (http://www.sreb.org/doctoral-scholars-program).

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 should be submitted on the nomination form available on the Graduate School webpage. The nomination should be e-mailed to the Graduate School in care of Michelle Dickson (mdickson@olemiss.edu) with the subject line: “SREB Institutional Nomination”. Nominations are due by April 15th, 2020 for fall funding. Inquiries, questions and nominations for this fellowship may be directed to mdickson@olemiss.edu. Additional information may be found on the Graduate School’s webpage (https://gradschool.olemiss.edu/prospective-students/financial-aid-information).

**Departmental Criteria**

- Must only nominate students underrepresented in graduate education and admitted to a Doctoral Program on the Oxford Campus
- Must commit to providing a half-time stipend appointment of at least $10,000 per year for a minimum of three years (with satisfactory progress as determined by the department)

**Scholar’s Criteria**

- From an underrepresented group
- Accepted into a Ph.D. program on the Oxford Campus
- Must be interested in pursuing a faculty position
- Must be a US citizen or have resident alien status
- Must be nominated by the department for the fellowship
- Must enroll as a full-time student each semester
- Cannot be employed outside of the University
- Due to guidelines for SREB, students completing online courses or programs are not eligible for consideration
Scholar’s Financial Benefits

- Departmental Assistantship (at least half-time appointment)
- Supplemental SREB fellowship of $3,000/semester (applied to fall and spring semesters)
- Full tuition Scholarship (resident and nonresident)

- Funding (~$1500/year) to cover all expenses to attend “The Institute on Teaching and Mentoring”, a conference held each year in the fall semester which helps prepare the scholars for the professoriate (https://instituteonteachingandmentoring.org). Attendance is required for the student for all three years in which the student receives the SREB Stipend. The student’s advisor may attend the Institute one time with all expenses paid by this program.

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 the 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).