

## **GRADUATE EQUITY FELLOWSHIP (GEF) PROGRAM**

The Graduate Equity Fellowship Program at CSU Dominguez Hills provides financial support to CSU Dominguez Hills graduate students interested in a future doctoral degree who exhibit strong academic performance. The program aims to increase the pool of CSU Dominguez Hills graduates who pursue and complete doctoral programs and may later consider teaching careers. Fellowships of up to \$5,000 may be awarded for the academic year. The maximum grant period for any student is two years.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

Graduate students who meet the following criteria are ideal candidates for GEF:

- a) Demonstrate financial need
- b) Accepted or enrolled in a graduate program at CSUDH
- c) Show a strong academic record
- d) Have a faculty sponsor
- e) Interest in pursuing doctoral program
- f) Interest in a higher education teaching career

New\* and continuing graduate students are eligible to apply.

*\*If you have applied for admission and have not yet received a decision, you are still welcome to apply for this fellowship. We will verify your enrollment at CSUDH in our system before providing the awardee list to Financial Aid.*

Please view the application deadline on our Graduate Studies website.

The funding cycle starts in the fall term.

### **FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and be determined to be eligible for financial aid using the Congressional Methodology and Federal Verification Standards, and maintain the following eligibility criteria throughout their time as a GEF fellow:

- 1) Be a California resident or have an AB540 affidavit on file with CSUDH
- 2) Be admitted to a CSUDH master's program as a classified or conditionally classified student
- 3) Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or California Dream Act Application (CADAA)
- 4) Have financial need of at least \$1000
- 5) Enroll at least half-time in an eligible master's degree
- 6) Maintain satisfactory academic progress (3.0 GPA)

Eligible students are likely to complete a master's degree expeditiously. One purpose of the fellowship is to minimize the debt burden by replacing loan money with grant money. The

fellowship aims to enable students to complete their programs more quickly than would otherwise be possible. Graduate fellows are encouraged to continue onto doctoral programs and to consider faculty careers.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

- Must work with a faculty member in your department who will collaborate with you on projects related to your area of research
- Must maintain a 3.0 GPA in 6 or more semester units per consecutive term to be considered for continuing participation
- Must agree to participate in group meetings and ongoing advising
- Must prepare a presentation for the campus Student Research Day and the CSU Annual Research Competition and Conference
- Must volunteer at New Graduate Student Orientation

You may expect your fellowship to be renewed for a second year if you fulfill the above requirements.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Read and follow the directions precisely when applying for the Graduate Equity Fellowship.

- 1) **Complete the Graduate Equity Fellowship Application on page 4 of this document.** Please type or print legibly.
- 2) **Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** If you have not already applied for financial aid for the term for which you are applying for the GEF, you must complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Processing of the FAFSA application takes 4-6 weeks, so please plan accordingly.
- 3) **Complete a Personal Statement** including the required information from page 5.
- 4) **Sign the Privacy Act form on page 5.**
- 5) **Obtain two (2) letters of reference from faculty and submit them with your application.** One letter must be from your proposed faculty mentor.
- 6) **Create a single PDF file with all the above application materials using the file name “GEF\_LastName\_FirstName\_ProgramName.”**
- 7) **Email PDF application to Vanessa Cervantes at [gstudies@csudh.edu](mailto:gstudies@csudh.edu) by the listed deadline.**

An advisory committee will interview qualified students before final selection.  
Students will be notified of the final decision no later than September 15th.

If you have any questions, call the Office of Graduate Studies at (310) 243-3693.

**GRADUATE EQUITY FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

Please be sure that you have completed the following steps in the application process for the graduate fellowship. Please include this checklist with your application packet and email your application to [gstudies@csudh.edu](mailto:gstudies@csudh.edu). Please view the application deadline on our Graduate Studies website.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Equity Fellowship Application	Complete the application on page 4. Please type or print legibly.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Statement	Complete a typed personal statement using instructions on page 5.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Privacy Act	Sign the Privacy Act form on page 5.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letters of Reference	Two (2) letters of reference from faculty are required, one letter written by the proposed faculty mentor. Each respondent must fill out the form on page 6 to accompany their letter of reference.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Complete your FAFSA before the application deadline.

**GRADUATE EQUITY FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION**

**PART 1: PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student I.D. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CSUDH Enrollment Status:

New Student – Expected Start Term: \_\_\_\_\_  
Term & Year

Continuing Student – Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Term & Year

Master’s Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Faculty Mentor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 2: HONORS AND SERVICE**

Please list any awards that you have received or services that you have provided to your community or college. Please list the organization or college, responsibilities, and recognition, as well as the dates of involvement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 3: EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

Please list all colleges and universities that you have attended. Please list dates of attendance and degrees awarded.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 4: REFERENCES**

Please list the two references from faculty submitting letters on your behalf. One reference must be your prospective faculty mentor.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title/Institution
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title/Institution

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

**To be completed by applicant:** (please type)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a typed personal statement that includes the following information:

- (1) Your professional goals.
- (2) Your commitment to pursuing doctoral education  
    Note: Be sure to discuss both prior educational performance and goals
- (3) Why and how you meet the selection criteria for the Graduate Equity Fellowship.
- (4) Your research experience and/or topics of interest for future research.

## PRIVACY ACT

Contact: Office of Graduate Studies and Research  
Vanessa Cervantes  
*Senior Graduate Studies Program Specialist*

*The Family Education Right and Privacy Act of 1974*, as amended, provides an applicant with the right of future access to the contents of this recommendation form. The act also provides an applicant with an option of waiving this right but stipulates that no school or person can require an applicant to exercise the waiver as a condition for evaluating this application. I have read and understand the statement of conditions set by federal law concerning my rights of future access to this recommendation form.

**Please sign and date the appropriate statement.**

**I hereby waive my right** of future access to its contents and authorize the above-named person to provide California State University, Dominguez Hills with all appropriate evaluations and information that may be required in support of this application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**I do not waive my right** of future access to its contents but authorize the above-named person to provide California State University, Dominguez Hills with a candid evaluation and other relevant information that may be required in support of this application.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LETTER OF REFERENCE

**To be completed by respondent:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach a letter to this form incorporating the following items:**

- 1) Indicate how long you have known the applicant and in what capacity
- 2) Describe in some detail the applicant's academic abilities
- 3) Comment on the applicant's academic potential
- 4) Provide any pertinent information regarding the character, integrity, personality, and interests of the applicant
- 5) Give your perception of the applicant's desire to pursue doctoral education

**Your signature below indicates your support of the applicant for the Graduate Equity Fellowship Program.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_