

Graduate Division Fellowships 26-27

This document provides information on all fellowships and awards for the current 2026–27 academic year and the upcoming 2027–28 academic year.

Quarterlies

ECA – Earle C. Anthony Travel Grant Award

Provides funding for Ph.D. students who have advanced to candidacy to attend STEM-focused conferences. Students may receive up to \$1,500 for domestic/national events and up to \$2,000 for international events.

Emeriti – Emeriti Association Graduate Student Travel Award

Supports Ph.D. students in any field who travel to present their research at scholarly conferences or conduct dissertation research. Awards provide up to \$1,500 for domestic travel and \$2,000 for international travel.

DRG – Dissertation Research Grant

Provides up to \$2,000 for research-related expenses associated with a dissertation. Applicants must be registered Ph.D. students who have advanced to candidacy.

MRG – Master’s Thesis Research Grant

Available to non-STEM master’s students. Provides up to \$2,000 for expenses directly related to thesis research, including conference registration, travel, and equipment.

Quarterly Submission Process:

- Applications are reviewed by the Graduate Council Fellowship Sub-Committee during the Fall and Spring quarters.
- Submission deadlines: **October 16 and April 16.**
- For the DRG and MRG awards, funds are transferred to the program, which is responsible for administering the funds.
- Award notifications are sent within one month of each submission deadline.

For more information and to access the application, please visit: <https://graduate.ucr.edu/funding>

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award (DCFA)

The **Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award (DCFA)** is designed to support Ph.D. students as they complete their degrees during the current academic year. Awards provide up to **two quarters of stipend and tuition support at \$12,300 per quarter**.

Students requesting a second quarter of support must provide a detailed justification in their completion timeline and confirmation from their Dissertation Advisor.

DCFA Calls for 2026-27

There will be **two DCFA application cycles** during the 2026–27 academic year:

DCFA Cycle	Application Open	Application Deadline	Award Quarter	Award Notifications
Fall 2026 Call	September 8, 2026	October 16, 2026	Winter 2027	November 2026
Winter 2027 Call	November 2026	January 15, 2027	Spring 2027	February 2027

Guidelines

- **Graduation Requirement:** Students must graduate at the conclusion of the award period. For example, **Winter 2027 awardees must have a graduation date posted by March 19, 2027, and Spring 2027 awardees must have a graduation date posted by June 11, 2027.** Failure to meet the graduation requirement may affect the Graduate Program's ability to nominate future students.
- **Employment Eligibility:** DCFA recipients are **not eligible for employment** after the fellowship period ends.
- **Exceptions:** If unusual circumstances arise, contact **GradAwards** *before the fellowship ends*. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Examples of student timelines can be found at the end of this document.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

1. Must be a Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy by October 16th, 2026.
2. Must not have more than 7 units of incomplete grades.
3. Have a minimum GPA of 3.5.
4. Must be making acceptable progress toward the degree. (For these purposes, acceptable progress for a Ph.D. student means advanced to candidacy within 15 quarters after entry.

5. Can be on leave to apply but must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 units) during tenure of fellowship.
6. International and domestic students are eligible to apply.

Application and Review Process

- DCFA application link: [Current Fellowship Application Portal](#)
- One letter of recommendation is required and must come from the Dissertation (Thesis) Advisor or Faculty Mentor. The letter must confirm the student's proposed completion timeline and ability to complete the dissertation by the end of the award period.
- Advisor Confirmation: The Dissertation Advisor and Graduate Advisor must acknowledge the student's thesis timeline and confirm the plan to graduate within the award period.
- We recommend that Graduate Programs establish an internal review process to determine their nominations. Programs are encouraged to use a committee-based review process to help minimize conflicts of interest. Graduate Programs must submit their student nominations by the applicable deadline.
- Student applications will be accessible to the program review committee through Slate Reader: <https://grad.ucr.edu/manage/reader/>
- Graduate Programs will receive a designated number of nominations based on program size, as outlined in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.
- If previous DCFA recipients have not graduated by the time nomination allocations are determined in September, a program's nomination allocation may be reduced.
- Approximately 100 quarters of support are expected to be awarded, with an anticipated success rate of approximately 50%, subject to available funding.

Review Criteria

- All fellowship applications are reviewed based on excellence in the student's discipline.
- When submitting a nomination, Graduate Programs are required to provide a justification explaining why the nominee demonstrates excellence in their discipline. The justification should include a program-specific rubric that outlines the criteria used to evaluate and select students.
- Programs are encouraged to remind students that writing support for fellowship applications is available through the Grad Success Writing Center at <https://gwc.ucr.edu/>.

Timeline

- Nominations will be submitted by Graduate Programs through Slate. Students do not submit nominations directly to the Graduate Division.
- The Graduate Division will verify the eligibility of nominated students.
- The Graduate Division will review applications and make final award selections.
- Programs will be notified of successful awards in November and February, respectively, with the goal of providing sufficient notice for TA and GSR appointments for students who are not selected.

Dissertation Year Fellowship Awards (DYFA's)

The **Dissertation Year Fellowship Award (DYFA)** provides one full year of funding (three quarters) to outstanding Ph.D. students who are expected to complete their degree during the upcoming academic year.

Each fellowship provides:

- **\$12,500 quarterly stipend** for three quarters
- **Tuition and fees covered**
- **\$1,000 travel award**
- **Travel support to attend the Fall DYFA award ceremony at the University of California Office of the President (UCOP)**, with travel expenses covered by the Graduate Division

Students apply during the **Fall quarter**, and graduate programs review and nominate eligible applicants. Nominations are reviewed and selected during the **Winter quarter**, with fellowship funding beginning in the **Summer or Fall of 2027-28 academic year**.

Funded by the University of California Office of the President (UCOP), the DYFA recognizes academic excellence and provides students with the financial support needed to focus on completing their dissertations and degree requirements without additional work obligations.

Only three students are selected each year.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be a Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy by January 15, 2027.
2. Have a minimum GPA of 3.5.
3. Have no more than 7 units of incomplete grades.
4. Be making acceptable progress toward the degree. For purposes of this fellowship, acceptable progress means:
 - Advancing to candidacy within 15 quarters after entering the program; and
 - Completing the degree within the program's normative time to degree plus one year at the time of degree completion.
5. Students may be on leave when applying but must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 units) during the fellowship period.
6. Both domestic and international students are eligible to apply.

UC-HSI DDI President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship (PPPF)

The **UC-HSI DDI President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship (PPPF)** supports the development of future faculty and strengthens pathways into the professoriate for students from historically underrepresented communities.

The fellowship is intended to support students from groups that have been historically underrepresented in higher education, including Latinx, African American, American Indian/Native American, Filipinx, and Pacific Islander communities across all disciplines; women in STEM; and Asian American students in the humanities and social sciences.

The fellowship is available to domestic Ph.D. students who earned their undergraduate or master's degree from a California Hispanic-Serving Institution (CA HSI) and meet the program's eligibility requirements.

Fellowship Support

Each fellowship provides **one year of support (three quarters)**, including:

- **\$12,333 quarterly stipend**
- **Full tuition and fees**
- **\$10,000 professional development grant, which may be used throughout the student's Ph.D. program**

This support allows recipients to focus on their dissertation research and timely degree completion without additional work obligations.

Applications open in the **Fall**, followed by graduate program review and nominations. Final selections are made in the **Winter/Spring**, with the fellowship awarded during the following academic year.

The PPPF is funded by the **University of California Office of the President (UCOP)**.

Three students are selected annually.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

1. Be a Ph.D. student.
2. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Students with AB540 status are also eligible. International students are not eligible.
3. Demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, including evidence of significant research accomplishments.
4. Have earned an undergraduate or master's degree from a California Hispanic-Serving Institution (CA HSI), either public or private.

5. Have advanced to candidacy prior to selection for the fellowship.
6. Provide letters of support from faculty advisor(s) addressing the student's academic performance, potential as an exceptional scholar, and likelihood of pursuing a career in the professoriate after earning the Ph.D.
7. Demonstrate a record of advancing inclusion, equity, and contributions to society, including active engagement in supporting underrepresented communities and a commitment to continuing these efforts throughout their career.
8. Be actively engaged in scholarly research leading to the dissertation.
9. Have no more than 7 units of incomplete grades.
10. Be making acceptable progress toward the degree. For purposes of this fellowship, acceptable progress means:
 - Advancing to candidacy within 15 quarters after entering the program; and
 - Completing the degree within the program's normative time to degree plus one year at the time of degree completion.
11. Students may be on leave when applying but must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 units) during the fellowship period.

DYFA and UC-HSI DDI PPPF Review Process

Application and Nomination Process

- Student applications will be completed online through the Graduate Division fellowship application portal.
- Two letters of recommendation are required for both the DYFA and UC-HSI DDI PPPF applications.
- Graduate Programs are responsible for establishing their own internal review process to determine their nominee. Programs are encouraged to use a committee-based review process to promote a fair and consistent evaluation and minimize potential conflicts of interest.
- Student applications will be made available to the Graduate Program review committee through Slate: <https://grad.ucr.edu/manage/reader>
- Each Graduate Program may submit one nomination for the DYFA and one nomination for the UC-HSI DDI President's Pre-Professoriate Fellowship.

Review Criteria

Both fellowships recognize excellence in the student's discipline.

- Because the Graduate Council represents a wide range of academic disciplines, Graduate Programs are required to provide a justification explaining why their nominee demonstrates excellence within their discipline.
- As part of the justification, Graduate Programs should develop a program-specific rubric outlining the criteria used to evaluate applicants and determine their nominee.

- The Research Statement should be written so that reviewers from a variety of disciplines can understand the significance, importance, and potential impact of the student's research.
- The Societal Contribution Statement is a required component of the application. Students should describe how they and their research contribute to society. This brief statement, limited to 1–2 paragraphs, replaces the previously required Diversity Statement.
- Students are encouraged to seek writing support from Grad Success' Writing Center, which can provide guidance specifically for fellowship and award applications.

Timeline and Final Review

- Nomination Deadline: January 16 each year
- Graduate Advisors will submit nominations through Slate. Direct applications from students will not be accepted by the Graduate Division.
- The Graduate Division will verify the eligibility of all nominees.
- Eligible nominations will be reviewed by the Graduate Council.
- Fellowship recipients will be announced and awarded at the end of the Winter quarter.

Examples of Student Timelines

Possible Humanities Examples	Possible STEM Examples
My dissertation requires extensive research at multiple specific library locations that house collections on the historical impact of social security in the 6th Century. My thesis has three major chapters discussing the development of income support in 1512 and its impact on the fishing industry; the housing incentivization in 1525 and its role in female chore building and lastly the institutionalization of poverty from 1500 onwards. I have presented papers at the international meeting on 12th Century Domestics and at the Swedish National Archives in February and April respectively. In June-July I conducted a final research visit to Saint Genevieve library in France. I have now completed all planned research visits. In October I completed the first chapter of my thesis, the introduction. This has been approved by my advisors along with my literature review. I am currently writing chapter 2. Final edits to this chapter are expected to be completed in early Winter. I will also be TAing in the Winter quarter. I plan to use the Spring quarter to write and finalize my final dissertation chapter. With the help of a DCFA I expect to finish and defend my thesis at the end of Spring or early Summer. I am on the job market and have interviewed for academic teaching positions with the aim to start in the next academic year.	My project investigates the role of fleb signaling in Q cell proliferation. I have 3 specific aims firstly to test the kinetics of fleb signaling following ARC Receptor stimulation; to determine the partner proteins activated by fleb following its phosphorylation and to test the role of fleb in Q proliferation by blocking its activation. I have completed the first two specific aims from which I have a first author manuscript published in Nature Fleb Reports. I am currently finalizing the analysis of the data for the third aim. These experiments have been optimized, and 2 replicate data sets have been generated. By the end of this current quarter, I will have generated the last replicate data set. The manuscript for this study is being written and I am currently revising based on my mentor's edits. I expect to submit this manuscript to the Journal of Expectations in the Winter quarter. I have started writing my thesis in parallel with my paper. Two chapters have been completed, and I believe I will have completed this writing by early Spring quarter. Revision of the manuscript and my defense will take place at the end of Spring quarter. I plan to stay in academia and am currently applying for postdoctoral positions including at UCAB on Q cell migration in the lung during infection.
My research uses two predominant forms of research methods: relational interviewing and theoretical and textual analysis. Relational interviewing consists of semi-structured conversations with participants around the country. I have intentionally chosen institutions at both the East and West coasts and Mid-Western parts of the USA to diversify my results. The interview portion of my research has been completed as of June 2024. As I interviewed	September: Finish the writing of the Supplementary information of my second paper and respond to the reviewers' comments of my first paper submitted to Trends in Quantodynamics. October: Finish writing the main text of my second paper and submit. Continue to finalize first paper resubmission.

participants, I have been writing reflections which is a major part of my second chapter and as a result chapter 2 has been straight forward writing. The other chapters require theoretical and contextual analysis which has been completed. The writing of these chapters is ongoing and should be complete and ready for my advisors by the middle of Winter quarter. I expect to finalize edits and seek permission to defend in early Spring.	November: Wait for reviewer's comments to first and second papers. Conduct final experiments if needed and analyze results. December: Write draft of dissertation and discuss with advisor. January: Continue writing dissertation and make edits according to feedback. February: Complete the dissertation writing and submit the complete draft to my committee. March: Make revisions based on committee feedback. April: Finalize dissertation, format and prepare for submission May: Submit thesis, complete my defense and graduate.
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