



## McKnight Dissertation Fellowships

The McKnight Dissertation Fellowship Program will offer Dissertation Fellowships for the 2016-2017 academic year to selected Ph.D. students who are engaged in excellent research in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Miami, and/or University of South Florida.

**PURPOSE:** The McKnight Dissertation Fellowship Program is designed to address the underrepresentation of African American and Hispanic faculty at colleges and universities in the State of Florida by increasing the pool of citizens qualified with Ph.D. degrees to teach at the college and university levels.

**AWARDS:** McKnight Dissertation Fellowships will provide up to one year of support to individuals working to complete dissertations in STEM disciplines. Awards will be made to individuals who, in the judgment of the selection committee, have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to careers in teaching and research at the college or university level, and demonstrate strong commitment to community service. Each award will provide a stipend of up to \$12,000 in addition to expenses paid to participate in the McKnight 2016 Summer Research and Writing Institute and all other McKnight doctoral conferences and workshops during the 2016-2017 academic year.

**ELIGIBILITY:** An applicant must be an African American or Hispanic U.S. citizen who has successfully defended his/her dissertation proposal or prospectus and advanced to doctoral candidacy and who will be enrolled in dissertation credit hours and maintain good academic standing as defined by his or her university during the 2016-2017 academic year. Current or former McKnight Doctoral Fellowship recipients may not apply.

**APPLICATION:** Each applicant must email the completed application form to the Florida Education Fund (FEF) at [mdf@fefonline.org](mailto:mdf@fefonline.org) and submit the additional documentation requested below to the FEF by email to [mdf@fefonline.org](mailto:mdf@fefonline.org) or mail to 201 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1525, Tampa, FL 33602, for receipt by May 20, 2016. In addition to emailing the completed application form, each applicant must:

- Submit a curriculum vitae (CV);
- Submit a schedule for completing the dissertation (Dissertation Completion Schedule), showing estimated dates by which sub-tasks will be completed and the planned date of graduation. This Dissertation Completion Schedule must be endorsed in the letter of support from the applicant's dissertation chair or advisor; and
- Request that his/her dissertation chair or advisor submit by mail the McKnight Dissertation Fellowship Program Recommendation Form (attached) and a letter of support to 201 E. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1525, Tampa, FL 33602.

**CONDITIONS OF FELLOWSHIP:** Each McKnight Dissertation Fellowship recipient must agree to the stipulations in the award agreement that will accompany the Fellowship award letter. In addition, each Fellowship recipient must agree to participate in regular updates of the McKnight Fellows directory as well as periodic surveys as requested by the FEF.

**INQUIRIES:** Direct Fellowship inquiries to Charles Jackson, Program Manager, at 813-272-2772 or [mdf@fefonline.org](mailto:mdf@fefonline.org).

**NOTICE OF AWARDS:** Recipients of McKnight Dissertation Fellowships will be notified after June 15, 2016, *via* postal and electronic mail. To ensure timely notification, each applicant must include complete and accurate mailing and e-mail addresses in the application.



## McKnight Dissertation Fellowship Application

Personal Information			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Current Address:			
Telephone Number:			
Email Address:			
Nation of Citizenship:			
Ethnic Origin:		If You Selected "Other" as Your Ethnicity, Please Specify:	
Academic Information			
University:			
Department:			
Title of Dissertation:			
Date of Dissertation Proposal Defense:			
Name of Dissertation Chair:			
Email Address of Dissertation Chair:			
Term First Enrolled in Current Department:		Anticipated Ph.D. Graduation Term:	
Write a 300 to 500-word abstract of your approved dissertation proposal or prospectus:			



**Explain exactly how your current means of financial support preclude or significantly interfere with your ability to complete your dissertation in a timely fashion.**

*By typing my electronic signature below, I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that falsification or omission of information will be sufficient grounds for cancellation of this award. For Fellowship selection purposes, I hereby grant the FEF permission to circulate the application and supporting documents among participating Florida universities. I also agree to adhere to the conditions of this Fellowship.*

**Electronic Signature:**

**Date:**

**Please do not print and mail this application to the FEF.**

Instead, **please click the submit button above to email your application to the FEF** at [mdf@fefonline.org](mailto:mdf@fefonline.org). If the submit button does not work, please save this application to your computer, and email it to the FEF as an attachment to [mdf@fefonline.org](mailto:mdf@fefonline.org).

**McKnight Dissertation Fellowship Program  
Dissertation Chair or Advisor Recommendation Form**

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ University \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE APPLICANT:**

Attach a copy of your Dissertation Completion Schedule to this Form and deliver it to your dissertation chair or advisor along with a stamped envelope addressed to FEF, 201 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 1525, Tampa, FL 33602.

Prior to delivering this form to your chair or advisor, please read the following statement. Signing it is optional.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, opens many student records, including letters of recommendation, for the student's inspection. The law also permits a student to sign a waiver relinquishing his/her right to inspect letters of recommendation. You are not required to sign a waiver to receive the Fellowship.

I hereby waive my right of access to this recommendation by \_\_\_\_\_ as well as any related documents written by him/her. This waiver is effective insofar as the recommendation is used solely for the purpose of the award of fellowship or other financial aid, if applicable.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO THE DISSERTATION CHAIR OR ADVISOR:**

The applicant named above is applying for a McKnight Dissertation Fellowship. The Fellowships provide up to one year of support to selected African American and Hispanic students who are working to complete dissertations in STEM disciplines. Awards will be made to individuals who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to careers in teaching and research at the college or university level, and demonstrate strong commitment to community service.

Please complete the following items:

1. I have served as the applicant's dissertation chair or advisor since (list academic term): \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The applicant has completed all Ph.D. requirements other than the dissertation.     Yes     No
3. The applicant's dissertation proposal/prospectus has been approved by a properly constituted dissertation committee.     Yes     No
4. I have reviewed the applicant's Dissertation Completion Schedule and believe the applicant has the ability to successfully complete the dissertation within the timeframe set forth in that Schedule.     Yes     No
5. ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF LETTERHEAD STATIONERY, please write your candid assessment of the (a) merits of the applicant's dissertation proposal/prospectus; (b) the quality of the applicant's scholarship; (c) the quality of the applicant's writing skills; (d) the ability of the applicant to manage time effectively; and (e) any other factors that denote the applicant's superior academic achievement, commitment to a career in teaching and research at the college or university level, and commitment to community service.

Name (please print or type) \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

DEADLINE: Please return this completed and signed form for receipt no later than 11:59 p.m., 2011, directly to FEF, 201 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 1525, Tampa, FL 33602.