



Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship



ACLS

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Office of Graduate Fellowships and Awards (OGFA)



Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a Humanities/Social Sciences PhD Candidate at a U.S. university
- Must be officially ABD
- Must be no more than six years into the program (including an associated MA)
- Must not hold, nor have held, another dissertation completion fellowship
- Must not have applied for the Mellon/ACLS dissertation fellowship more than once



Requirements

- Completed application form
- Proposal (≤ 5 pages, double-space, 11 pt. Times New Roman)
- Timeline (1 page, include research, writing, & defense)
- Supporting materials (≤ 3 pages, non-text images)
- Bibliography (≤ 2 pages)
- Completed dissertation chapter (≤ 25 double-spaced pages)
- Letters of reference (2, 1 from dissertation advisor)
- Statement of Institutional Support (Dept. Chair or Dean)
Must 1) affirm the timeline's viability, 2) guarantee that university tuition/fees will not exceed \$5,000, and 3) pledge that no subsequent aid will be given to the applicant if awarded the fellowship



Application Timeline

Application Due: October 24, 9:00 PM

- Letters of Recommendation (request *now*)
- Institutional Letter (request *yesterday*)
- Proposal, bibliography, timeline
- Document review

Identify 2-3 people to review documents.

- *Advisor or at least an expert in your specific area of study*
- *Someone who works in your field of study, but may not be an expert in what you study*
- *External review - OGFA*



Application Strategies

Assessing your preparedness

- S.M.A.R.T. Objectives = your baseline

Specific – *Your proposed project must be clear, focused, and easily interpreted by anyone.*

Measurable – *Your project must be measurable. You must be able to **analyze progress**.*

Attainable – *Your project must be achievable, reasonable, and possible **in real life**.*

Relevant – *Your project specifics must match an overall project **that people care about**.*

Timely – *Your project must be feasible to complete within timeline, and important for **now**.*

- Can you explain your project to anyone?
- Can you clearly articulate your project's...

Potential to advance your chosen field(s) of study?

Quality in terms of method, scope, theory, and bibliographical grounding?

Feasibility in terms of likeliness of completion/success? (mitigating risks, potential pitfalls)

Continuation of your record of scholarly engagement / **Confirmation** of your academic promise





Heilmeier's Catechism: Questions All Proposals Must Answer

1. What are you trying to do?
2. How is it done today, and what are the limitations of current practice?
3. What's new in your approach, and why do you think it will be successful?
4. Who cares? If you're successful, what difference does it make?
5. What are the risks and what are the rewards?
6. How much will it cost, and how long will it take?
7. What are the midterm and final "exams" to check for success?



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