

*Inter-discipline* means a course of study that involves academic fields in two or more disciplines.

*Minority* means Alaskan Native, American Indian, Asian-American, Black (African-American), Hispanic American, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander.

*Multi-disciplinary application* means an application that requests fellowships for more than a single academic department in areas of national need designated as priorities by the Secretary under this part.

*Project* means the activities necessary to assist, whether from grant funds or institutional resources, fellows in the successful completion of their designated educational programs.

*Satisfactory progress* means that a fellow meets or exceeds the institution's criteria and standards established for a graduate student's continued status as an applicant for the graduate degree in the academic field for which the fellowship was awarded.

*School or department of divinity* means an institution, or an academic department of an institution, whose program is specifically for the education of students to prepare them to become ministers of religion or to enter into some other religious vocation or to prepare them to teach theological subjects.

*Students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds* mean women and minorities who traditionally are underrepresented in areas of national need as designated by the Secretary.

*Supervised training* means training provided to fellows under the guidance and direction of faculty in the academic department.

*Tuition* means the charge for instruction by the institution of higher education in which the fellow is enrolled.

*Underrepresented in areas of national need* means proportionate representation as measured by degree recipients, that is less than the proportionate representation in the general population, as indicated by—

(i) The most current edition of the Department's *Digest of Educational Statistics*;

(ii) The National Research Council's *Doctorate Recipients from United States Universities*;

(iii) Other standard statistical references, as announced annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER notice inviting applications for new awards under this program; or

(iv) As documented by national survey data submitted to and accepted by the Secretary on a case-by-case basis.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135-1135d)

**Subpart B—How Does an Institution of Higher Education Apply for a Grant?**

**§ 648.20 How does an institution of higher education apply for a grant?**

(a) To apply for a grant under this part, an institution of higher education shall submit an application that responds to the appropriate selection criteria in § 648.31.

(b) In addition, an application for a grant must—

(1) Describe the current academic program for which the grant is sought;

(2) Request a specific number of fellowships to be awarded on a full-time basis for the academic year covered under the grant in each academic field included in the application;

(3) Set forth policies and procedures to ensure that in making fellowship awards under this part the institution will seek talented students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds;

(4) Set forth policies and procedures to assure that in making fellowship awards under this part the institution will make awards to individuals who satisfy the requirements of § 648.40;

(5) Set forth policies and procedures to ensure that Federal funds made available under this part for any fiscal year will be used to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the funds that otherwise would be made available for the purposes of this part and, in no case, to supplant those funds;

(6) Provide assurances that the institution will provide the institutional matching contribution described in § 648.7;

(7) Provide assurances that, in the event that funds made available to the academic department under this part

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are insufficient to provide the assistance due a student under the commitment entered into between the academic department and the student, the academic department will, from any funds available to it, fulfill the commitment to the student;

(8) Provide that the institution will comply with the requirements in subpart F; and

(9) Provide assurances that the academic department will provide at least one year of supervised training in instruction to students receiving fellowships under this program.

(c) In any application period, an academic department may not submit more than one application for new awards.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0604)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135b)

[58 FR 65842, Dec. 16, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 13487, Mar. 18, 1999]

### Subpart C—How Does the Secretary Make an Award?

#### § 648.30 How does the Secretary evaluate an application?

(a) The Secretary evaluates an application on the basis of the criteria in § 648.31.

(b) The Secretary informs applicants of the maximum possible score for each criterion in the application package or in a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135, 1135b)

[58 FR 65842, Dec. 16, 1993, as amended at 70 FR 13375, Mar. 21, 2005]

#### § 648.31 What selection criteria does the Secretary use?

The Secretary evaluates an application on the basis of the criteria in this section.

(a) *Meeting the purposes of the program.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine how well the project will meet the purposes of the program, including the extent to which—

(1) The applicant's general and specific objectives for the project are realistic and measurable;

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(2) The applicant's objectives for the project seek to sustain and enhance the capacity for teaching and research at the institution and at State, regional, or national levels;

(3) The applicant's objectives seek to institute policies and procedures to ensure the enrollment of talented graduate students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds; and

(4) The applicant's objectives seek to institute policies and procedures to ensure that it will award fellowships to individuals who satisfy the requirements of § 648.40.

(b) *Extent of need for the project.* The Secretary considers the extent to which a grant under the program is needed by the academic department by considering—

(1) How the applicant identified the problems that form the specific needs of the project;

(2) The specific problems to be resolved by successful realization of the goals and objectives of the project; and

(3) How increasing the number of fellowships will meet the specific and general objectives of the project.

(c) *Quality of the graduate academic program.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the current graduate academic program for which project funding is sought, including—

(1) The course offerings and academic requirements for the graduate program;

(2) The qualifications of the faculty, including education, research interest, publications, teaching ability, and accessibility to graduate students;

(3) The focus and capacity for research; and

(4) Any other evidence the applicant deems appropriate to demonstrate the quality of its academic program.

(d) *Quality of the supervised teaching experience.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the teaching experience the applicant plans to provide fellows under this program, including the extent to which the project—

(1) Provides each fellow with the required supervised training in instruction;

(2) Provides adequate instruction on effective teaching techniques;