DEPARTMENT DISSERTATION AWARDS

The Department will provide a total of $7000 to support dissertation research for graduate students. Graduate students who are working on their dissertation, and whose dissertation involves original data collection, may apply for up to $1,000 from the department to cover the costs of data collection for their dissertation research studies. Students who have successfully completed their dissertation proposal defense are eligible to apply for these awards. Awards are subject to the availability of funds, meaning that if there are more applicants than the Department has funds for, some students who apply may not receive an award or may receive an award for a smaller amount than they apply for.

To apply for a Department Dissertation Award, students should submit to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS): a) proof of successful completion of the dissertation proposal defense; b) a one paragraph abstract that explains the research questions/hypotheses and that explains the data collection that will be done for the dissertation; c) an itemized budget of expenses; d) an anticipated timeline for the dissertation project; and e) a description of any other sources of funding that will help cover the costs of the dissertation project (e.g., if the student has or will be receiving funds from grants or other sources that can support their dissertation, if the faculty member will be providing financial support for the student’s dissertation research, etc.).

The Department’s intention with these awards is to promote the success of our graduate students during the culmination of their graduate research training and in their development as independent researchers through supporting the dissertation project. For other research projects that students conduct throughout their time in graduate school, the expectation is that the faculty advisor will support these studies through their grants or discretionary funds, or that the student will seek out other sources of funding. If a circumstance arises whereby a graduate student is unable to conduct a research study involving original data collection (pre-dissertation) without additional financial support (i.e., the student has not been able to obtain research funding, and the faculty advisor has no grants and no discretionary funds to support the project – as verified by the department Business Administrator, Tomeka Bolar), that student may request research funds through the same above mechanism, and decisions about providing funds for graduate student research projects outside of the dissertation will be made by the DGS based on need and availability of funds.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and will be reviewed as they are received. Please note however that the department’s fiscal year runs from September 1 – August 31. Thus those who choose to submit an application close to the end of the fiscal year should be aware that there may be fewer funds available at that point for dissertation awards.

To receive reimbursement from the department, students must abide by University rules regarding allowable research expenses. Students should work with the Graduate Program Coordinator, Julie Hoather, to arrange reimbursement or payment for expenses.