



Mellon-Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program

Purpose: The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) is designed to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the faculty ranks of institutions of higher learning. There are MMUF programs at 72 colleges and universities around the country as well as international programs (in South Africa). Faculty/student mentoring relationships form the core of the MMUF program. Faculty mentors help to orient undergraduates towards the pursuit of a Ph.D. and a faculty career through two years of a close research relationship.

MMUF Areas: The MMUF program has identified 21 fields of study most underrepresented by minorities in the academy. These areas are:

Mellon-Designated Fields of Study

Anthropology	Ecology	Mathematics
Area Studies	English	Musicology
Art History	Ethnomusicology	Philosophy
Classics	Foreign Languages	Physics
Computer Science	Geology	Political theory
Demography	History	Religion
Earth Science	Literature	Sociology

The Smith Program: The MMUF program at Smith College is nine years old. Faculty/student pairs are formed at the beginning of the fellowship and those relationships are maintained over the two years of the program. The Smith program puts heavy emphasis on this relationship and uses its resources to insure that students can have the experiences deemed necessary by their faculty mentor for graduate school preparation. Students guided by their mentors pursue a research topic during the academic year and the summer. The academic year and summer research is supported by a stipend. The research experience helps to prepare the student for the rigors of graduate work. Moreover the close relationship with the mentor helps to lend insight into the life of a college professor.

- Fellows received stipends during the academic year so that they may have more time to focus on their academic work and research. Summer stipends are also awarded to conduct research and to travel.
- Fellows must attend regular meetings and workshops throughout the year.

- Fellows are eligible for up to \$10,000 for the repayment of undergraduate loans, provided they pursue a PhD in a Mellon-designated field. All loan repayment procedures are administered through the student's undergraduate institution.

Eligibility: The MMUF is open to sophomores. The MMUF has established the following selection criteria:

- 1) Academic promise
- 2) Interest in pursuing an academic career in Mellon-designated fields of study.
- 3) Potential for serving as a mentor and teacher for a wide variety of students.
- 4) Race and ethnicity (in relation to underrepresentation in designated fields of study).
- 5) Demonstrated commitment to increasing opportunities for underrepresented minorities, breaking down stereotypes, increasing cross-racial and ethnic understanding, and enabling others to better understand persons of different races and ethnicities.
- 6) Commitment to participating fully and enthusiastically in all aspects of the MMUF program, including attendance at conferences and meetings.
- 7) Status as US Citizen or permanent resident.

The Smith Program will give first preference to students who plan to spend their Junior-year at Smith.

Selection Process:

1. A completed application form (due by March 12, 2010)
2. A letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope from a faculty member with whom you have taken class.
3. An official transcript and
4. A meeting with the selection committee for an interview in the allotted time

<http://www.smith.edu/diversity/programs.php>

<http://www.mmuf.org/>