2010 – 2011 Graduate Equity Program

The Graduate Equity Program seeks to increase the diversity of students completing graduate degree programs, encourage further study in doctoral programs and promote consideration of university faculty careers. It provides fellowships of up to $2,500 to economically disadvantaged CSU students who have overcome educational disadvantages or hardships. The fellowships are intended to minimize students' debt burden, allowing them to complete their program more quickly and commence doctoral study.

Application materials are due to Erinn Banks in MH-103 no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, May 3, 2010.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible, an applicant must:

- Be currently enrolled in a graduate degree program at Cal State Fullerton (6 units minimum), OR admitted to a graduate program at Cal State Fullerton for Fall 2010
- Enroll in a minimum of 6 units per semester toward a graduate program
- Earn and maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better
- Be a resident of the State of California
- Complete an application, submit a personal statement and provide a faculty recommendation letter
- Demonstrate a minimum need of $1,000 by filing a 2010 – 2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by Friday, April 16, 2010

STRONG CANDIDATES

In addition to meeting the general eligibility requirements, the strongest candidates will:

- Demonstrate a record of strong academic performance
- Demonstrate significant financial need
- Express an interest in completing a doctoral program and pursuing a university faculty career
- Demonstrate experience conducting research and/or teaching

Questions about the Graduate Equity Program should be emailed to Erinn Banks (ebanks@fullerton.edu).

ERINN M. BANKS
GRADUATE EQUITY PROGRAM
McCarthy Hall 103 • (657) 278-4093
ebanks@fullerton.edu

GRADUATE EQUITY PROGRAM
APPLICANT GUIDE

Thank you for your interest in the Graduate Equity Program. I have provided the following guide to assist you in preparing your application materials; however, please feel free to contact me through email at ebanks@fullerton.edu if you have further questions. -- Erinn

1. Read the information sheet carefully to determine whether you are eligible for the program.

2. Fill out the application form. Be sure to provide accurate contact information so that our office can reach you when necessary.

3. Prepare your personal statement. Be sure to answer everything that is asked in the prompt and put your name and CWID on each page. **Most importantly:** Keep in mind the purpose of this program -- to increase the diversity of students completing graduate programs, encourage further study in doctoral programs and promote consideration of university faculty careers. It also focuses on providing fellowships for economically disadvantaged CSU students who have overcome educational disadvantages or hardships. Given the program's purpose, use your personal statement to highlight how and why you are a strong candidate to receive a fellowship.

4. Select a faculty member who is willing and able to write about your strengths and abilities. Provide the faculty member with a copy of the program information sheet and the prompt that is provided on the application. This will help them understand the purpose of the Graduate Equity Program and focus their letter. Also ask the faculty member to proofread your personal statement. Having them read it will help you catch unnecessary errors and will give the faculty member more information about you and your goals.

5. **YOU** must accept responsibility for turning in **ALL** application materials **no later than 5:00 pm on Monday, May 3, 2010.** Incomplete or late packages will not be accepted.

AWARD NOTIFICATION AND DISBURSEMENT: Every effort is made to send award notification letters to students prior to the beginning of the fall semester; however, the actual funding for the fellowship is normally disbursed in October. Please note that the award of a Graduate Equity Fellowship may adjust or reduce other forms of aid in your financial aid package. If you have questions about how the fellowship may affect your financial aid package, please contact the Financial Aid Office (UH-146).

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

PLEASE RETURN MATERIALS TO:
ERINN M. BANKS
GRADUATE EQUITY PROGRAM
McCarthy Hall 103 • (657) 278-2618
ebanks@fullerton.edu

GRADUATE EQUITY PROGRAM APPLICATION

In order to be eligible for a Graduate Equity Fellowship, applicants must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, be a California resident, enroll in a minimum of 6 units towards a graduate program for Fall 2010, and demonstrate a $1,000 minimum need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____ **CWID:** _____

Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

City, State: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Major: _____ **Degree Objective:** MA

Undergraduate GPA _____ **Graduate GPA** _____

Will you be enrolled in a graduate program at CSUF for Fall 2010? ◯ **Yes** ◯ **No**

Semester and year you anticipate receiving your master's degree: _____

California Resident: ◯ **Yes** ◯ **No** **Gender:** ◯ **Male** ◯ **Female**

B. REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Personal Statement (No more than 3 typed, double spaced pages):

Describe your educational and career goals, your research interests, any research or employment you have participated in to advance your educational and career goals, your commitment to completing a master's degree, and any educational disadvantages you have faced and how you overcame them.

2. Confidential Letter of Recommendation (Completed by faculty member on official letterhead):

Indicate how long you have known the applicant and in what capacity you have interacted with him/her. Provide details of the abilities, skills, accomplishments, and motivations that are likely to contribute to this student's ability to complete his/her master's program. Assess his/her potential to be successful in a doctoral program and as a faculty member.

By signing and dating below, I affirm that the information given above is correct. I also certify that I have filed a 2010 – 2011 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

_____ _____

Applicant Signature **Date**

ALL MATERIALS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE STUDIES OFFICE BY 5 P.M. ON MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010.

Questions about the Graduate Equity Program should be emailed to Erinn Banks (ebanks@fullerton.edu).