

## 2012 – 2013 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 Yessica Penate at MH-112 no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, May 4, 2012.**

### **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 2012
- 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, including a personal statement and 2 faculty recommendation letters
- Demonstrate a minimum need of \$1,000 by filing a 2012 – 2013 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

### **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 Yessica Penate ([ypenate@fullerton.edu](mailto:ypenate@fullerton.edu)).

## **GRADUATE EQUITY PROGRAM**

### **APPLICANT GUIDE**

Thank you for your interest in the Graduate Equity Program. We have provided the following guide to assist you in preparing your application materials; however, please feel free to contact us through email at [ypenate@fullerton.edu](mailto:ypenate@fullerton.edu) if you have further questions.

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 faculty members who are willing and able to write about your strengths and abilities. Provide the faculty members with a copy of the program information sheet and the prompt that is provided in the application. This will help them understand the purpose of the Graduate Equity Program and focus their letter. Also ask the faculty members to proofread your personal statement. Having them read it will help you catch unnecessary errors and will give the faculty members 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 Friday, May 4, 2012.** 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).

