

McNair Scholars Program Central Michigan University

ASSIGNMENT #4 DUE: JUNE 12

SECURING FUNDS FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL

During camp, you began to think about what it will cost to attend graduate school. As it turns out, there are numerous opportunities for securing funding for graduate school; however, it will require effort and work on your part in order to be successful in receiving these funds. This workshop is intended to keep you moving ahead in terms of becoming knowledgeable of existing opportunities as well as exploring how much work will be involved in the process overall. Our intention is to help connect you with resources that will enhance this knowledge for you and also break down the process into manageable steps. You will want to keep track of departmental/institution funding opportunities within your graduate school matrix as well as national fellowships separately since those could be applied to any school that you decide to attend. Keep in mind that once you decide upon which schools you will be applying to, you will want to further investigate the cost of living associated with each school.

Steps to locating graduate school funding:

1. Search for national fellowship opportunities and those specific to your area of study.
 - Check out resource room publications
 - Utilize search engines and organization websites highlighted under “resources” on the McNair site
2. Determine whether your top choice graduate institutions offer McNair-specific fellowships.
 - See McNair fellowship listing via link on McNair site
3. Search for school-specific funding opportunities at the institution level.
 - Investigate whether the school offers any “general fellowships” for graduate study; begin by looking at the graduate school and/or the admissions website per each school you are applying to
4. Determine what departmental funding opportunities exist for each of your programs; this includes teaching/research/graduate assistantships and scholarships/fellowships.
 - Locate this information through departmental websites and/or contacting department secretaries to learn how many students typically receive financial support during their first year
 - Find out whether you may have a greater chance of receiving funding if you are applying to a Ph.D. program versus a master’s
 - Find out what whether the program has basic requirements that you would have to meet in order to be considered for funding; try your best to determine your chances

Compile this information and organize it accordingly. Gather applications (even if you aren’t applying until next year) so that you can immediately become acquainted with specific requirements for each opportunity. Be sure to keep track of deadlines in your matrix!

Assignment:

1. Generate a list of **two national fellowships** you are eligible for (insert into graduate school matrix)
2. **Per each of your top-six graduate programs** (insert into graduate school matrix):
 - Description of institution-level funding opportunities (fellowships/scholarships)
 - Description of McNair funding opportunities (if applicable)
 - Description of department/program-level funding opportunities (assistantships)