

# The Odessa Meyer Endowed Scholarship Fund

## Purpose

- To develop and support the scholarly excellence of EAF doctoral students from underrepresented groups<sup>1</sup>

## Components

- Students are identified as Odessa Meyer scholars upon receipt of the award.
- The student receives \$1000 annually as an Odessa Meyer Scholar for 5 years or less if the student graduates before 5 years.
- The student commits to pursuing scholarly activities under the mentorship of an EAF faculty member.
- The student stays in academic good standing and meets goals/expectations outlined by faculty mentor.

## Other expectations and opportunities

- The EAF faculty who nominated the applicant and volunteered to provide mentoring works with the student to outline the scholarly goals each year.
- The mentor may suggest a variety of opportunities for the student depending on need and interest: work on a research project, encourage the student to participate in ISU's Graduate Research Symposium, submit a proposal to present at a professional conference, write an article, and/or work on grant opportunities.
- Each fall before the disbursement of the \$1,000, the student and faculty mentor update the Scholarship Committee about the student's 1) progress or accomplishments and 2) goals for the next year.

## Qualifications

- Priority will be given to doctoral students from underrepresented groups interested in participating in scholarly activities.
- Candidates will be evaluated using the following criteria:
  - The student must be an EAF doctoral student from an underrepresented group.
  - The student must demonstrate strong academic and research potential in classes and remain in good academic standing throughout the duration of the scholarship award.
  - The student must demonstrate an interest in and potential to participate in scholarly activities.
  - An EAF faculty member who is willing to serve as mentor for up to 5 years must write a letter supporting the student's application. The faculty member should address:
    - Student's academic ability and interest in pursuing scholarly activities.
    - Short- and long-term goals and activities for the student over the 5-year period
  - If a faculty member can no longer serve as mentor, the Department chair will work with the student to identify another mentor so the student will continue to receive mentoring for the duration of the scholarship.

## Application

- Individuals apply for the scholarship during the fall semester.
- Applicants submit an essay outlining their qualifications and past accomplishments as well as their future scholarly goals and interests.
- Applicants provide a resume or curriculum vitae.
- Applicants ask two individuals to submit letters of reference.
  - An EAF faculty member who is willing to serve as mentor for up to 5 years must write a letter supporting the student's application. The faculty member should address:
    - Student's academic ability and interest in pursuing scholarly activities
    - Short- and long-term goals and activities for the student over the 5-year period
  - A person who is knowledgeable about the student's academic credentials and research potential writes a letter commenting on these areas. This person does not need to be from Illinois State University.

<sup>1</sup>The Scholarship Committee used the Illinois Board of Higher Education's definition of underrepresented groups in Illinois higher education with the exception of one group: females. In 2012, the underrepresented groups were identified as "citizens or resident aliens, who are minorities, including African American, Hispanic, Asian American, and American Indian or Alaskan Native...and persons with disabilities." ([http://www.ibhe.org/Board/agendas/2012/February/2012URG\\_Report.pdf](http://www.ibhe.org/Board/agendas/2012/February/2012URG_Report.pdf), p. 3)