

## **Gerontology Dissertation Support Programs**

The Department of Gerontology offers dissertation research support to its doctoral students on a competitive basis. Two programs are available.

The Wu Dissertation Grant Program offers dissertation research support for national and cross-national or cross-cultural research on aging Asian-Americans with an emphasis on older Chinese and Chinese-American individuals. This program is funded by The Samuel S.C. Wu Fund for Research in Gerontology, established in memory of General Samuel S.C. Wu.

The Gerontology Institute Dissertation Grant Program offers dissertation research support on any topic. These awards are funded by the Gerontology Institute.

### **Funding Levels**

The maximum amount of dissertation support available through either program is \$2,500 for any single project. Awards are subject to availability of funds.

### **Eligibility**

Eligibility for these dissertation grants is limited to the following individuals:

- Students must be a matriculated doctoral student in good standing in the Gerontology PhD program
- Students must have successfully completed all coursework and their qualifying paper examination
- Students must have successfully defended their dissertation proposal
- Students may receive dissertation support through these programs only once during their program of study, and may only receive support from one of the two available programs.
- Before receiving access to the funds (but not prior to submitting a proposal), IRB approval must be obtained.

### **Submission Process**

Application should be submitted to the Graduate Program Director (GPD). Students are encouraged to speak with their mentor or the GPD before submitting a grant proposal. Students may apply for support funds to cover dissertation-related expenses retroactively, assuming they have not already defended their final project. However, students are strongly advised to apply for funds before expenditures are made. Examples of appropriate budget items include the following:

- Subject fees for interviews
- Stipends for focus group participants
- Travel to collect data or interview target individuals
- Purchase of computer software
- Purchase of data
- Other expenses deemed appropriate by the review committee

Funds may not be used for student income or for travel (except as indicated above). Funds from these programs may be combined with funds from other sources to support dissertation projects. However, funds will not be provided to cover items that are fully paid for by other sources.

### **Review Process**

The review committee will be appointed by the GPD. The Review Committee will consist of two core faculty members from the Gerontology PhD program. The Review Committee may not include members of the applicants' dissertation committees. In cases of a split decision, the GI Director or Department Chair will appoint another faculty member to break the tie.

Criteria to be considered by the review committee include scientific merit and evaluation of whether the budget is sound and appropriate to the project goals. Because the dissertation proposal has already been evaluated and approved by the student's dissertation committee, highest priority will be given to the appropriateness of the budget and availability of funds.

*Deadlines for submission of applications are September 15 and January 15.*

The decision of the review committee is expected by September 30 and February 1, respectively, and students will be notified as soon as possible after the relevant review period.

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