Pathways to the Doctorate Fellowships

The Graduate and Professional School at Texas A&M University is soliciting nominations by faculty, departments, and interdisciplinary programs to enhance the recruiting and retention of high-quality and diverse students from underrepresented populations in doctoral programs at the university. These fellowships aim to address the findings of the report from the Presidential Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion that Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages are underrepresented when compared to the state’s overall population.

These fellowships are intended to promote mutually beneficial relationships between faculty, departments, and programs at Texas A&M and other institutions. These relationships should foster meaningful collaborative partnerships that create a sustainable pipeline for students from targeted underrepresented populations to enter doctoral programs at our institution while providing adequate support to students to ensure retention, timely graduation, and career success.

Texas A&M will award Pathways to the Doctorate Fellowships for incoming doctoral students in Fall 2022. In some limited circumstances, fellowships may be awarded for incoming doctoral students in Spring 2022.

Funding for these fellowships is provided by the Texas A&M System, TAMU Graduate and Professional School, and the Division of Research.

**Eligibility:**

Eligible students will be entering a doctoral program at Texas A&M in Fall 2022. Nominees must advance the overall goals of the Pathways to the Doctorate Program.

In general, nominees should be affiliated with programs or activities supported by a Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Grant. Nominees may also be affiliated with other types of activities or events associated with mutually beneficial partnerships with institutions which address the goals of this fellowship program. The activities or events may include but are not limited to recruitment visits; partnerships with Texas A&M University System Institutions, Minority Serving Institutions, or institutions with national programs with undergraduate research components such as Dept of Ed McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, NSF LSAMP Program, NIH Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, etc; short-term disciplinary or interdisciplinary focused symposium, workshops, or meetings which target prospective doctoral students; and structured summer experiences at Texas A&M University.

Nomination packets should clearly identify and describe the nominee’s relationship to a funded collaborative grant or other mutually beneficial partnership which addresses the goals of the fellowship program.
**Fellowship Benefits:**

Pathways to the Doctorate Fellows will receive collaborative support for four years of doctoral study. During the first year, the Graduate and Professional School will provide a 12-month stipend of $2,000 per month and a one-time top-up stipend of $6,000. Tuition and university and college required fees will be provided by the Graduate School. During the first year, the student will be eligible to participate in a TAMUS insurance program and receive reimbursement from the Graduate School for medical insurance at an amount equivalent to the cost of the employer contribution for graduate students employed at 50% FTE for the same plan type on the A&M Grad Plan.

During years 2-4 of the Pathways to the Doctorate Fellowship, the student’s department, program, or faculty advisor will provide funding for a 9- or 12-month Graduate Assistant Teaching or Research position at a rate of no less than $2,000 per month. Tuition and college and university fees will be provided by the Graduate School. As a graduate student employee, the student will be eligible to participate in a TAMUS insurance program and receive the employer contribution towards their monthly insurance premiums. For fellows on a 9-month appointment, funding will be provided to cover insurance benefits during the summer.

The Graduate School will provide Pathways to the Doctorate Fellows with $500 per year in professional development funds in years 1-4.

If a Fellow’s funding is provided by a supervising faculty member and the supervising faculty member is unable to meet their financial assistance obligations to the student, then the student’s home department or IDP shall assume the responsibility for meeting the outstanding financial obligations.

**Fellows Requirements**

The fellowship requires fellows to be in a doctoral program and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the first year, and 3.25 in subsequent years. Should a fellow fall below the required minimum, they will be given a one semester probationary period. Fellows must be enrolled full-time (9 hours in the fall and spring semesters, 6 hours in the summer) at Texas A&M – College Station to receive their fellowship stipend and their payment toward tuition and fees.

Fellows are expected to work collaboratively with their research advisor and other members of their advisory committee. Pathways to the Doctorate fellows are required to participate in regular program workshops including Graduate Mentoring Academy programming, adhere to all Graduate and Professional School reporting requirements, and attend educational and social events organized by the Graduate and Professional School for Fellows, until completion of their doctoral degree.
**Faculty Expectations**

The Graduate and Professional School expects that the individual faculty members and departments/programs will closely mentor, develop a community, and guide the Pathways to the Doctorate Fellows, specifically monitoring and encouraging them in their fellowship and academic program. Examples of outcomes of this mentoring relationship might be the writing of a grant proposal to fund the student’s research in succeeding years or assisting the student in achieving the Senior Fellow Certificate from the Graduate Teaching Academy.

All mentors must participate in the Graduate Mentoring Academy.

**Nomination Requirements:**

Nominations may come from individual faculty, a group of faculty, department, IDP, or college (for college led programs). Each nomination packet should include:

1. A statement of nomination (2-page maximum, single-spaced) that assesses the nominee’s academic record, awards and honors, relevant work experience, or any other important aspects of their personal biography that indicate the likelihood of success in a doctoral program.
2. A statement (1-page maximum) describing specifically how the nominee meets the criteria of affiliation with a Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Grant-supported or other mutually beneficial activity or program.
3. A copy of the nominee’s resume or CV.
4. Acknowledgement by the department head, IDP chair, or college (for college-led programs) accepting financial responsibility under the terms of the fellowship.
5. Acknowledgment by the prospective faculty mentor of their willingness to supervise this nominee and participate in the Graduate Mentoring Academy. In cases for which multiple faculty members will serve as mentors, only one faculty member must provide this acknowledgement.
6. Nominees must have submitted an application and the program must have determined that the student meets admissions criteria. If nominee is selected for a fellowship, the program must admit the student before fellowship offer is extended.

**Nomination Timeline:**

November 15, 2021: First round of applications opens, review of applications begins.

March 15, 2022: First round of applications closes

January 2022 – March 31, 2022: First round decisions announced as selections are made.