

2024-2025 Southeastern Conference Emerging Scholars Program Call for Applications

*Submission deadline for applications from Colleges/Schools is Friday, May 3, 2024 at 5pm CDT
Colleges/Schools will determine their respective internal deadline and process for receiving and selecting
applications from within their College/School.*

You are invited to apply for the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Emerging Scholars Program for the 2024-2025 academic year. This is a competitive 1-year fellowship program. *Three doctoral fellowships will be awarded.*

Description of program from the SEC Provosts:

The SEC Provosts established the SEC Emerging Scholars Program to aid in preparing future faculty members. The program is designed to provide professional development and networking opportunities for current doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers who are considering careers in higher education.

The SEC Emerging Scholars Program is open to anyone regardless of race, national origin, ethnicity, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, political affiliation, veteran status, parental status, socio-economic status, or first language. Its purpose is to ensure that faculty members reflect a multitude of experiences and viewpoints and that students are exposed to a variety of perspectives.

Eligibility:

This program is only for doctoral students who have been [admitted to candidacy](#) and aspire to pursue a career in academia (including next-stage postdoc positions). Applicants must have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree except the dissertation at the time of application and plan to graduate no later than August 2025. *This fellowship is NOT intended to finance data collection or the completion of doctoral coursework.* Primary intents of the program are for the Scholar to focus on completing their dissertation, participate in professional development events, and prepare application materials for next-stage academic positions.

Benefits of the SEC Emerging Scholars Program:

- 1) 2024-2025 Fellowship – The Grad School will post the following payments (see [Financial Award Details and Restrictions](#) below):
 - a. \$30,000 stipend (\$2,500/month)
 - b. \$5,000 one-time scholarship
 - c. Tuition and required university and college fees
 - d. 12 months health insurance (medical only)
- 2) Professional development opportunities
- 3) Job networking opportunities with other SEC institutions
- 4) Faculty-provided feedback of common academic job application materials

Requirements of the SEC Emerging Scholars:

If selected, the following will be required of a Scholar:

- 1) Prepare a C.V., Research Statement, and Teaching Statement for the Preparation Workshop
- 2) Attend Preparation Workshop hosted by the Graduate and Professional School (duration ~ 2 hours) about 1 month prior to the SEC Emerging Scholars Conference
- 3) Attend the Fall 2024 SEC Emerging Scholars Conference hosted by the University of Georgia September 15-18 (travel and accommodations paid for by the Grad School).
- 4) In the 2024-2025 academic year, participate in at least 2 professional development workshops listed on the [GRAD Aggies calendar](#). These workshops, hosted by various TAMU units (Career

Center, Center for Teaching Excellence, University Libraries, University Writing Center, Grad School's Graduate Mentoring Academy, University Health Services), are typically 1 to 2 hours in length. Note: Prior participation in any of these workshops counts toward this requirement. Also, this requirement can be met with external professional development opportunities (e.g., a professional development event hosted by a Scholar's academic society/professional organization).

- 5) In Spring 2025, provide a half-page reflection of your overall experience of the program.

Required Application Materials:

Doctoral students apply directly, and are responsible for writing or acquiring the materials below and submitting them according to their College/School's guidelines. *Please assemble as a single PDF that is bookmarked with the 5 components (please use the titles in bold below as the bookmark titles).*

- 1) **Personal Statement** (1-page max, 1-inch margins, 11-point Arial) must address the following points: a) provide progress to doctoral degree that indicates likelihood of graduation no later than August 2025, b) describe why you want to pursue a career in academia, your academic career goals, and commitment to professional advancement in higher education, and c) state how your experiences and viewpoints are unique and will contribute to the academic missions of teaching, research, and service.
- 2) **Research Statement** (2-page max, 1-inch margins, 11-point Arial). Minimal statement content should include: 1) research program overview and contextual importance, 2) past and ongoing research projects, 3) research successes and products, 4) short- (2-5 years) and long-term (career) research goals, and 5) impact of past research and potential impact of future research within your discipline and/or beyond. Additional guidance on common content in a research statement is provided on the Grad School's SEC Emerging Scholars [FAQ website](#).
- 3) **C.V.** (3-page max)
- 4) **Committee Chair** signed acknowledgment of participation: Provide on signed letterhead from your Committee Chair the following 2 statements:

"I verify that {applicant name} advanced to doctoral candidacy in {semester, year} and is on target to graduate no later than August 2025. I acknowledge the 5 requirements of the program (as outlined in the Call for Applications) and thus, fully support {applicant name}'s participation in the SEC Emerging Scholars Program."

"I also accept that if {applicant name} is selected as a 2024-2025 SEC Emerging Scholar that I agree to serve as an application reviewer in the next academic year's cycle of the SEC Emerging Scholar program."

Note: Reviewing will typically involve 6 to 9 applications and occur in May with a mid-May deadline for reviews. We accept a 1-time deferral to review the next year. Also note this is not the same role as the faculty *Statement Reviewer* described below in # 5).

- 5) **Statement Reviewer:** Recruit a *faculty* member with expertise in your discipline to serve as a SEC Emerging Scholar *Statement Reviewer* (please note this is not the same as an application reviewer in point 4 above, see the [FAQ website](#)). This faculty will serve as a reviewer of yours and one other Scholar's research and teaching statements and attend the Preparation Workshop to provide constructive feedback on the statements. Expectations for content in research and teaching statements can vary among disciplines. Thus, it is important to have field-specific feedback. We recommend trying to find a newly hired (within the last 5 years) faculty member to have a fresh perspective of the

academic job market. However, it is acceptable to have other faculty including your Committee Chair serve as this *Statement Reviewer*. Provide on signed letterhead from the faculty who agreed to serve as your *Statement Reviewer*, the following statement:

“If {applicant name} is selected as an SEC Emerging Scholar, I agree to review {applicant name}’s and one other Scholar’s teaching and research statements and provide constructive feedback on these statements during the Preparation Workshop.”

Note: Due to the timing of the SEC Emerging Scholar Conference in September, the Preparation Workshop will likely be scheduled in August 2024 (though timing is subject to change). The Grad School will provide lunch during the workshop.

Applications that fail to adhere to all components of the application procedures (e.g., page limits, bookmarks) will not be considered.

Application process and due dates:

Due May 3: Colleges/Schools submit applicant(s) to the Graduate and Professional School. Colleges/Schools submit the applications (the single PDF originally assembled by the applicant) online through the [InfoReady submission portal](#) by 5:00 p.m. CDT on Friday May 3, 2024. There will be no exceptions to this date or time.

May 31: Graduate and Professional School will notify College/Schools of selected Scholars.

Colleges/Schools will determine their respective internal deadline and process for receiving and selecting applications from within their College/School. IDP applicants submit according to the guidelines put forth by the College/School that is the administrative home of the respective IDP (See [FAQ website](#) for home of IDP).

The number of applicants Colleges/Schools can submit was weighted by the number of graduated doctoral students in the 2022-2023 academic year and currently enrolled doctoral students in Fall 2023.

Allowed applicant submissions	College/School
1	Bush School of Government and Public Service
2	College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
3	College of Arts and Sciences
3	College of Engineering
1	Galveston Campus
1	Mays Business School
1	School of Architecture
1	School of Dentistry
2	School of Education and Human Development
1	School of Medicine
1	School of Nursing
1	School of Pharmacy
1	School of Public Health
1	School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

If you have questions, please feel free to [contact Dr. Charles Criscione](#), Associate Dean of the Graduate and Professional School. Please put *SEC Scholar* in the header.

Financial Award Details and Restrictions:**Tuition and Stipends**

The SEC Emerging Scholars Fellowship stipend is \$2,500 per month from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025, or graduation, whichever occurs first. The additional, one-time \$5,000 scholarship is disbursed in September. The fellowship also includes payment for tuition and required university and college fees for 1 credit hour per semester or the minimum number of required credit hours for the fellowship recipient. These minimum required hours may vary based on immigration status or federal loan deferral requirements. If a fellowship recipient must register for more than 1 credit hour for loan deferral or immigration, a request must be submitted to the Grad School for approval.

During the 12-month fellowship period, SEC Emerging Scholars are eligible to participate in Texas A&M University System insurance programs. The Graduate and Professional School will reimburse awardees participating in a Texas A&M University System TAMUS insurance program for 12 months of medical insurance at an amount equivalent to the cost of the employer contribution for the same premium category on the A&M Grad Plan. For fellows participating in a non-TAMUS insurance program, the Graduate and Professional School will reimburse the cost of medical insurance for the student only premium category.

U.S. citizens, permanent residents and international doctoral students are eligible to apply for this fellowship. Please note: Federal student loans require at least half-time enrollment to extend the grace period or defer student loan repayment. One hour of registration is not considered half time by the loan holder in most cases (even though the university may consider this half time). Thus, either the grace period may end or the repayment period may begin earlier than anticipated.

Restrictions

SEC Emerging Scholars may not accept any additional funding (e.g., assistantships, fellowships, internships, employment, etc.) during the fellowship tenure of September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025. However, departments may choose to supplement stipend funds to match those received by other graduate students in the department. For example, if the standard departmental graduate assistantship monthly stipend rate is greater than \$2,500, a department may supplement the additional monthly cost to match the standard rate.

Additional Information:**Doctoral Degree Candidacy**

To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

- Completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690, and 691 credit hours.
- Demonstrated a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0, with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan.
- Passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions).
- Submitted an approved dissertation proposal.
- Met the degree residency requirements (see Graduate Catalog).

Students can check their candidacy status in ARCS.

The SEC Emerging Scholars Fellowship will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.