

THE SOUTH CAROLINA

GRADUATE INCENTIVE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM*

PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM:

The Graduate Incentive Fellowship Program has two major purposes:

1. to increase the number of South Carolina residents who enroll, as "other race" students,¹ in graduate and professional programs of study at public postsecondary institutions in the State; and,
2. to reduce any disparity that exists between the proportion of State residents and white State residents completing graduate and professional programs at South Carolina's public postsecondary institutions.

Other important purposes are: (1) to increase, at South Carolina public institutions, the number of "other race" students studying at the graduate/professional level in "shortage" academic/professional areas² in the State; (2) to increase the pool from which "other race" faculty and administrative staff members are chosen by South Carolina public postsecondary institutions; and (3) to increase the number of outstanding students, South Carolina residents, remaining in the State following completion of their graduate/professional studies. Provisions will be made, where suitable, for recipients to serve as teaching or research assistants.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. U.S. citizen;
2. Bona fide resident of South Carolina;³
3. Member of "other race" at institution to be attended;
4. Accepted for admission to, or enrolled as, a full-time student in an eligible "shortage" program at a South Carolina public postsecondary institution;
5. Outstanding student;⁴
6. For annual renewal, satisfactory academic standing,⁵ and continued full-time status in an eligible program.

¹"Other race" students are black students at traditionally white institutions and white students at traditionally black institutions.

²"Shortage" academic/professional areas are areas in which overall shortages exist in South Carolina, or areas in which black State residents are under-represented. The definition also applies to manpower needs in South Carolina.

³As defined in Chapter 112, Title 59, of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

⁴Outstanding student as defined by the participating institution on the basis of previous academic record and scores on any tests required by the institution.

⁵Satisfactory academic standing as defined by the institution attended.

LIMITATIONS OF AWARDS:

The maximum annual amount of a Graduate Incentive Fellowship will be \$5,000. The same limitations used in awarding other fellowships and assistantships should be applied in determining the final amounts of Incentive Fellowships.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will have overall administrative responsibility, to include:

1. requesting program funding annually through the Budget and Control Board;
2. determining annually the eligible shortage areas in graduate/professional academic programs and in manpower needs in South Carolina, with the assistance of an Ad Hoc group formed for the purpose, giving priority to the areas represented by eligible Fellowship renewal applicants;
3. notifying eligible institutions in timely fashion concerning steps required on their part in the application, awarding and reporting procedures;
4. receiving and processing annually requests from institutions for funding;
5. annually recommending allocation of funds to institutions in equitable fashion on the basis of eligible programs and institutional estimates of eligible students;
6. annually, gathering and analyzing, pertinent information from institutions, regarding Fellowship recipients, to accompany each year's request for subsequent year State funding and to be included in reports to the federal government.

Eligible public postsecondary institutions will have the following responsibilities:

1. annually meeting a maintenance of effort requirement by submitting to the Commission, with the request for funding of Graduate Incentive Fellowships to be awarded in a given year (and again by the end of the fiscal year), a report which states (verifies): (a) that the institution will not (did not) supplant any institutional funds with Graduate Incentive Fellowship funds; (b) that graduate scholarship and fellowship funds will be (have been) awarded, at not less than the level of the preceding year; (c) that the level of scholarship and/or fellowship awarded to "other race students" will not be (has not been) reduced. These reports will provide data, by race, on the number and level of scholarships and/or fellowships to be (that have been) awarded.
2. annually requesting Fellowship funding on the basis of estimated numbers of eligible students expected to be recruited into designated "shortage" area programs;
3. receiving and screening Fellowship applications; and selecting recipients, with priority being given to recipients eligible for renewal;
4. utilizing other available fellowships and assistantships in conjunction with Incentive Fellowship funds allocated to the institutions to recruit and assist as many "other race students" as possible;

5. submitting in timely fashion to the Commission on Higher Education any information concerning recipients needed and requested by the Commission for reporting and accounting purposes, including information concerning members of "other race" graduate and professional students enrolled.

RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Beyond initial eligibility and renewal requirements, each recipient is required to sign a legal obligation to remain and work in South Carolina, following completion of studies, for the same number of years that the Incentive Fellowship has been received. If this legal obligation is not met, repayment of the funds granted with interest, will be required. The Commission on Higher Education may relieve a recipient of this obligation for just cause.