

Departmental Service Disparity Fellowships

Purpose: Certain groups in the United States are less likely to receive quality mental health treatment than other groups. Groups that experience mental health service disparities are: new immigrants, people of low SES, people with a physical disability, gay/lesbian/transgendered people, and African-Americans and Hispanics. In order to help reduce these mental health service disparities, the doctoral program in clinical psychology at C.W. Post has created a "Service Disparity Fellowship" to encourage students with interest in helping underserved groups to gain the knowledge and experience required to help these groups. The goal of the fellowship is to increase the number of psychologists who are committed to working professionally with these groups.

Eligibility: In order to be eligible for this fellowship, a student must plan to devote a significant percentage of her career to working with members of these groups. To be funded, a student must demonstrate a history and a desire to work with clients who belong to the groups listed above.

Priority: Among the students who demonstrate eligibility as described above, an extra funding preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need. A similar preference will also be given to students who self identify as belonging to one of the groups for which the fellowship is based. Applicants are not required to self-identify as belonging to one of these groups if they wish to keep that information confidential.

Specifically, student membership in one of the following groups increases the chances of an award

- * African American
- * Hispanic
- * Gay/Lesbian/Transgendered
- * Physically handicapped
- * Having a personal experience with poverty
- * Having a personal experience with immigration to the United States and becoming either a permanent U.S. resident or U.S. citizen.

Duration of Fellowship: Fellowships will be awarded on an annual basis and can be renewed by reapplying. Only students who are in the first three years of the program (when tuition is highest) can receive the fellowships.

Applying for or Renewing the Fellowship: To apply simply complete the Doctoral Program's Financial Aid Application. If you are renewing, you will want to demonstrate that you have made progress toward attaining skills and knowledge that will help you work with the underserved populations described above after graduation. In addition, the faculty will look at students' overall progress in the program, when making funding decisions. Students not making good use of any financial aid, including this fellowship, can have that aid revoked or reduced.

Work/Service requirement associated with the award: All students receiving this fellowship will have a work requirement. Instead of working as an assistant in the department, the work requirement will be geared toward getting the student experience working with underserved people. Students will be expected to put in 3-6 hours a week toward gaining expertise working with these populations. Awardees will be required to keep a detailed log of fellowship-related activities to document their weekly service (available on the program's website). Awardees will have the month of September to put together their work assignments. Starting October 1st, the time requirement begins. Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours during the calendar year. Students don't need to complete the hours in a level manner. In other words, they can wait until the Spring and complete all 100 hours during the Spring, or even do some during the summer.

Examples of activities that could qualify toward the work requirement include coordinating brown bags or speakers for colloquia, working with a faculty member in research related to underserved groups, doing clinical work with underserved groups, attending multicultural alliance meetings, going to universities and recruiting students from underserved groups, and doing community service with underserved groups. **Qualifying activities cannot already be requirements of the program, and students may not be paid for doing them.** **Students must clear plans to fulfill their hours with Dr. Ortiz before they undertake their activities. E-mail Dr. Ortiz with a description of the plan and an explanation describing how the activity will increase your expertise with one of the groups listed above.**