

Money Matters: Academic Library Scholarship and Funding Initiatives for Graduate Students

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Who we are

Wendy Doucette

Wendy Doucette is an assistant professor and the Graduate Research and Instruction Librarian at East Tennessee State University. She is the lead instructor and developer of the Sherrod Library Graduate-Level Academic Workshop series and an embedded librarian for the Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Boot Camp. Her research interests center on 360-degree literacy, problem-based learning, visual literacy, and professional development and motivation.

Elizabeth Kline

Elizabeth Kline, Research & Learning Librarian at the University of Arizona Libraries, serves the research and instruction needs of various users in the College of Science. Besides those main job responsibilities she is a member of the university's Graduate Council, the shared-governance body for graduate education that is part of the Faculty Senate. Her main areas of research interests are exploring the complexities of the intellectual journeys of graduate education and making improvements to library services in an effort to facilitate students' progression to degree completion.

What this session is about:

Graduate programs in all disciplines view external funding as a benchmark of success. For students on research teams and for those seeking academic careers, faculty role models demonstrate the need for funding as an integral part of the research cycle. Closer to home, the increasing cost of graduate education requires students seek supplemental funding. This session, presents experiential case studies for how academic libraries can design scholarships and fellowships to serve graduate students in this often overlooked phase of their graduate education.

ETSU Graduate Scholarships

Internal

Outstanding Graduate Student
Assistantship

External

Sherrod Library Graduate
Student Scholarship for
Excellence in Research

Internal (Library)



Why create a graduate award within the library?

- Acknowledge excellent student behaviors
- Provide parity with existing Sherrod Library

Undergraduate Scholarship Awards

- Ultimately...why would we not?

Requirements

- Open to all Graduate Assistant Workers
- Employed 1+ full semester(s)
- Currently employed at Sherrod Library
- GPA 3.0 or better
- 300-500 word essay on “How has working at Sherrod Library affected your work ethic?”

Supervisor Evaluation is critical

Supervisor Evaluation

Sherrod Library Outstanding GA Scholarship Application

Applicant's Contact Information

Applicant Name'

ETSU E-Number'

ETSU E-Mail'

Eligibility Verification

How many previous full semesters has this person been employed by Sherrod Library?

'-- Choose --'

Is this person currently employed as a GA by Sherrod Library at this time?

Supervisor Evaluation

Only one Graduate Assistant will be eligible to win this award. Please give your candid evaluation of this person's performance as compared to other current GAs in the following three categories. A numeric rating is required and is followed by a box for comments supporting your rating.

Responsibility' Please Rate 1 (Lowest) -5 (Highest)

Reliability' Please Rate 1 (Lowest) -5 (Highest)

Helpfulness' Please Rate 1 (Lowest) -5 (Highest)

Additional Comments

Details

- \$500 award
- Deposited to ETSU account Spring semester
- No restrictions on previous winners
- Routed via JotForms
- Started in 2016 (1); 2017 (1.5); 2018 (4); 2019 (TBD)

External (University)



Requirements

- Open to all graduate students
- Research acumen and a successful, strategic search strategy utilizing library resources to conduct research.
- Research done in foundational coursework (not thesis, dissertation, or capstone)
- Reflection and examination of the research process itself

The Basics

- Currently enrolled graduate student in good standing
- Sole author of a research paper (close readings, case summaries, and book or literature reviews are not eligible)
- Submitted for ETSU course credit during previous 3 semesters
- Between 10 and 20 pages in length
- Containing a minimum of 10 sources, more than 50% of which are peer-reviewed
- Final version of the research paper uploaded as a file

The Essay

300-500 words describing student mastery of research strategy and its successful execution using Sherrod Library resources and referencing concrete examples of

- utilizing Sherrod Library online and/or physical collections to support an original argument or idea
- the steps, execution and evolution of a personal research plan to locate primary and secondary research resources
- a strategy for evaluating the suitability and effectiveness of resources selected
- a method for surmounting unexpected roadblocks and other challenges

Essays are compared against the final version of the paper submitted by the instructor to verify that the resources referenced by the student are evident within the work.

Professor Permission (two-way nomination)

Faculty Contact Information

Faculty Name *
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Faculty ETSU eMail *
example@etsu.edu

Faculty Department *

Graduate Student Nominee

Student Name *
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Student ETSU eMail *
name@etsu.edu

4/29/2019

Library Graduate Student Scholarship for Excellence in Research...

<https://form.jotform.us/726254>

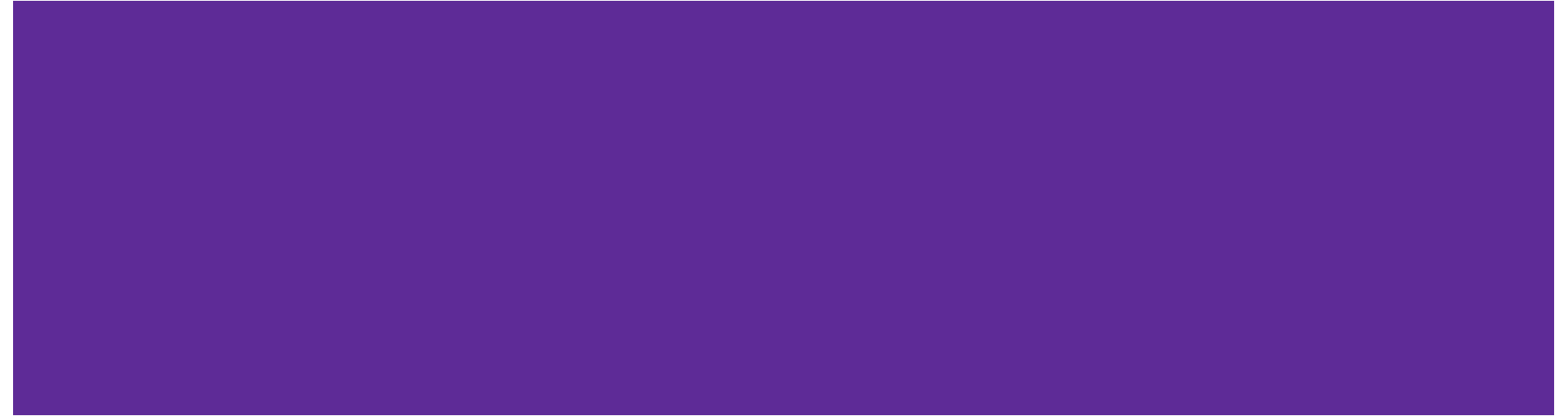
Title of Paper *

Course Code and Course Title *
Credit course for which this paper was written.

I am the professor of record for this course. * Yes No

Please state in 3-4 sentences why you found this paper to be an outstanding example of student research.

Nuts and bolts



Process overview

1. Inputs: student application, academic statistics, essay, supervisor evaluation
2. Actions: committee review and discussion
3. Notification: All applicants (winners and non-winners) notified via e-mail from Dean of Library

Marketing MATTERS!

- Findable year-round on the Library Webpage
- Word-of mouth and e-mail from Supervisors and Graduate Coordinators
- Registered with the ETSU Scholarship Office (sortable fields)
- ETSU Weekly University Newsletter

So does documentation

- In-house ceremony during National Student Worker Week
- Photography and publicity press releases to
 - ETSU newspaper
 - Johnson City Press
 - Student's hometown newspaper
- Grad School Awards Ceremony (Excellence winner)
- All winners commemorated on Library website

Takeaways



Funding a scholarship is a great opportunity to involve your alumni, your board of trustees, or other cooperative partners in furthering the professional development degree goals of your organization.

Awarding student scholarships helps allay student loan burdens while raising the library's profile as an active agent in supporting education. It does good, it feels good, and it's also good marketing.

University of Arizona Graduate Fellowships

Latest scholarly landscape

- Digital scholarship and data science are characterized by novel technologies and applications
- These innovations are driving a demand for digital and computational skills training
- Many resources are evolving at a pace too rapid for traditional college curricula to keep up
- Considerable unmet need for skills training exists on campus
- Circumstances lead many scholars to “learn on their own”
- Libraries cannot keep up with the pace of change of technologies and training of staff

Opportunity

- Growing population of practitioners with expertise in those in-demand skills
- There is a need for those delivering training to develop instructional skills and pedagogical best practices

Digital Scholarship and Data Science Fellowship Program (DS²F)

- The program serves as a formal system for connecting these groups, provides career-relevant professional development opportunities to graduate students while affording campus-wide skills training in digital scholarship and data science
- The library serves as a neutral interdisciplinary hub for scholarly activity and exchange
- Participants receive \$1500

DS²F pilot program

- 27 applicants fall 2019 (physical sciences, social sciences, humanities, and life/health sciences)
- 5* selected to begin spring 2020 & end fall 2020
 - •Sociology (2), Public Health (1), Earth Sciences (1),
**English (1) withdrew*

Program in closer detail

- Fellowship Friday's
- Most will deliver “how to” workshops
 - Topics include web scraping with python, reproducible analyses using Docker containers, and data visualization with R

Initial observations

- High amount of cross-talk, collaborations, and learning among the participants
- Importance of library expertise in the success of the fellows

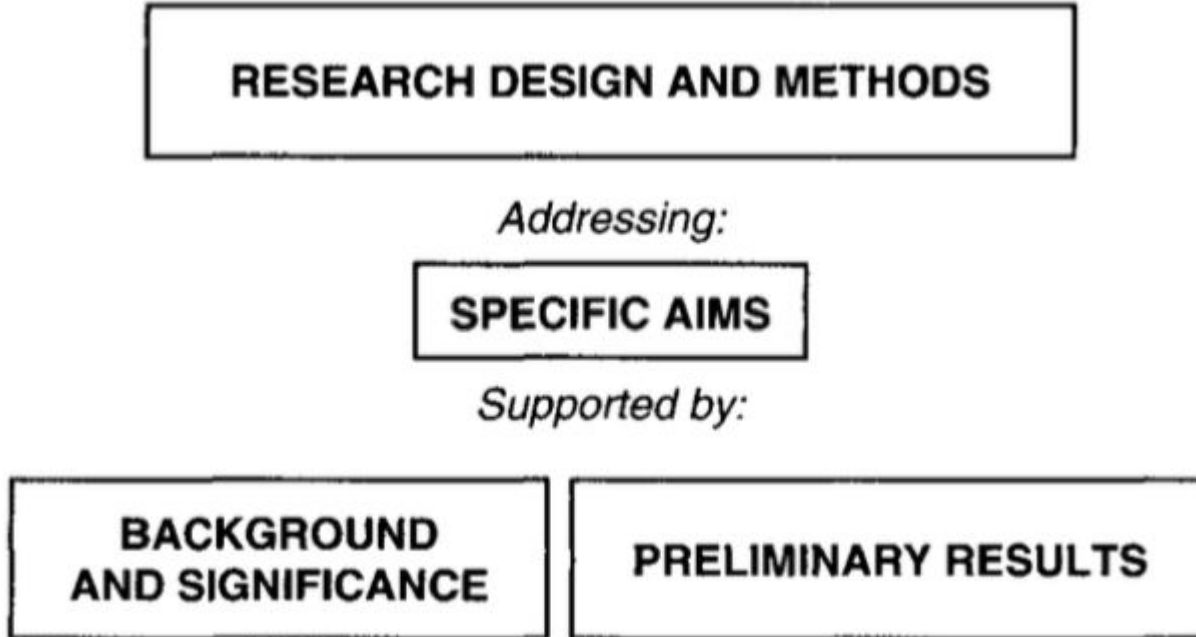
External Funding Trends



Grant writing landscape

- Normally conducted by experienced principal investigator (traditional model)
- Types of funding
 - DOD, HHS (NIH), DOE, NASA, NSF, USDA, DHS, DOC
 - Other
- Statistics on funding (varies yearly)

Key elements of grant proposals



“Guide to Effective Grant Writing”(Yang 2012)

"I remember getting to go there and not only did we get to meet with program officers from NIH, NSF, etc all these places but they did mock grant interviews and watching my grant be reviewed by people it was eye opening in a way that they told me things never could be.

There's the writing but I think in order to write a good grant you have to have a good understanding of what the process is, because again you don't get to see the other side of the table until you've been there."

New trend in graduate education

- Train students to apply for fellowships, which are based on academic achievement and research excellence
- Benefits
- Students get experience in the grant writing process
- Funding pays for tuition fees, annual salary, allowance for professional travel, health insurance
- No departmental teaching and research activities
- Allows for full-time attention to course of study
- Does not have to be repaid

Evolving graduate education models

- Programs revising graduate education to incorporate grant writing
 - Anthropology, Chemistry & Biochemistry, Entomology, Hydrology & Atmospheric Sciences, **Molecular & Cellular Biology**, Optical Sciences, **School of Geography & Development**, **Speech Language & Hearing Sciences**
- Strategies
 - Core course leading up to (but not part of) comprehensive exam
 - Core course + component of the written comprehensive exam
 - Doctoral seminars + prospectus/dissertation committee

Core course leading up to comp exam - Geography

- Core course GEOG 500 Research Design
 - Focuses on development of an individual research proposal for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation
- Students end up with a draft proposal formatted as NSF DDRI for common format but ready to submit to Fulbright, etc.
- Course taken in second semester so well in advance of comprehensive exams

Core course + component of written exam - MCB

- Core course MCB 575 Scientific Communication (fall of year 2)
 - Focuses on the effective dissemination of scientific information through distinct modes of oral and written communication as well as participate in peer reviewing exercises
- For written comps, students submit a dissertation project formatted as NIH F31 fellowship proposal to committee (spring of year 2)
- A well written, defensible proposal is the major requirement for passing the written exam

Seminars + prospectus/dissertation committee – SLHS

- Doctoral Seminars
 - Core course SLHS 696A Topics in Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences. Topics determined by program needs and individual faculty offerings. 696A Grant Writing (2 credits)
- Study idea required by first week of semester in order to remain in class
- Format of prospectus document can be in form of a grant application or first draft of the dissertation document



Grant Resources

Search this Group

Se

Getting Started

UW Funding Sources and Services

Funding Databases

[Quick Database Tips](#)

[Funding Opportunity Databases - Biomedical Focus](#)

[Funding Opportunity Databases - Multidisciplinary](#)

[Awarded Grants Databases](#)

Find Experts/Collaborators

Grant Writing

Quick Database Tips

* When exploring opportunities for funding, try:

- [Databases of active funding opportunities](#) (such as [Grant Forward](#) or [Grants.gov](#));
- [Databases of foundation profiles](#) (such as [Foundation Directory](#));
- [Databases of awarded grants](#) (such as [NIH RePORTER](#), [Grant Forward](#), or [Federal Reporter](#)).

* [Databases of awarded grants](#), such as [NIH RePORTER](#), [Grant Forward](#), or [Federal Reporter](#) can help you:

- Find examples of successfully funded projects in your field. Search by topic keyword or Principal Investigator name.
- See the types of research funded by a particular funding body (foundation, agency, association).

Funding Opportunity Databases - Biomedical Focus

- [Fogarty International Center: International Grants & Fellowships](#)
- * [Global Health Research funding opportunities](#)
- * [International grants and fellowships in biomedical and behavioral research](#)
- * [The Fogarty International Center is the international component of the NIH, but funding opportunities are not from NIH.](#)
- [National Institutes of Health \(NIH\) Guide for Grants and Contracts](#)

Example of current library service

*“I think the proposal stage is the hardest.. and committing to an idea. So **there's a kind of a process for training them in how scholars in this discipline think.** 'What was the research question? How did this scholar answer this question? What were the methodological tools? What are the flaws and weaknesses? What are the gaps in the literature?’ **That is hard. You have to commit to an idea, you don't know the right size of an idea.**”*

Suggested ways to support graduate training

- Determine if programs have graduate education requirements with an element of grant writing
- Target appropriately (course instructor or with DGS or with comp committees)
- Work with faculty to design activities that walk students through the main elements of the funding proposal

Takeaways



Writing grant proposals make up a huge part of a scholars' professional daily activities.

Professional development is an integral part of graduate education. Students need practice and authentic experiences to gain these skills.

Librarians have unique skills to help create activities to meet these critical writing needs.

Comments or questions?

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