

Kemper Knapp University Fellowship Nominations (2017)

OVERVIEW

The Graduate School administers the Kemper Knapp University Fellowship Competition to provide one-year fellowships to incoming PhD-, DMA-, or MFA-bound students. Academic programs may nominate individuals for these fellowships in February, these nominations are then reviewed by a committee, and offers will be made by the Graduate School and sent to the programs to distribute by March 20th.

Funds for these fellowships are generously provided by the Kemper Knapp Bequest, which is administered by a committee at UW-Madison. In his bequest, Kemper Knapp indicated:

In general it is my wish that such funds be used for purposes outside the regular curriculum of the university... to cultivate in the student body ideals of honesty, sincerity, earnestness, tolerance, and social and political obligations.

Further, the Bequest Committee has stipulated that these funds be used to support underrepresented students, such as students of color and low-income first-generation students, and students in underfunded areas, such as the arts and humanities. Students selected will be expected to provide the Graduate School with a mid-year update and an end-of-year report describing their activities and the impact of this fellowship on their educational experience.

FELLOWSHIP TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Graduate School provides Kemper Knapp University Fellows with: a) stipend of \$20,500 for either a 9-month, or academic year appointment, b) paid tuition and segregated fees during the fellowship tenure, c) eligibility for health insurance, and d) priority status for University Housing, upon request by the student.

The Graduate School administers the Kemper Knapp University Fellowships, including: payrolling fellows, paying fellows' tuition and fees, and placing students on the priority status list for University Housing (if requested). Graduate program staff are responsible for processing benefits and direct deposit authorization forms.

ELIGIBILITY for the Kemper Knapp University Fellowships

The following students are eligible to be nominated:

- Incoming PhD-, DMA-, or MFA-bound students who will begin enrollment in a graduate program in Fall 2017.
- Students entering non-MFA masters programs, including terminal masters programs, if they clearly intend to continue on to a PhD program at UW-Madison. In such cases, the graduate program must make a case to the Selection Committee that the student is PhD- or DMA-bound. The student's application and statement of purpose should also contain indications of his/her intent to continue on to a PhD or DMA program at UW-Madison.

- Students who have completed (or are completing) a Master's program at UW-Madison and are applying to (or changing their major to) a PhD or DMA program *different* from the masters and who will begin enrollment in that program in Fall 2017.

The following students are NOT eligible to be nominated:

- Students intending to complete a Master's program only.
- Students who have previously been nominated for a University Fellowship.
- Capstone students.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All nominees must have a paid application on file in the Graduate School Admissions Office by Friday, **January 31, 2017**. The only exception is for current students who have completed a Master's program and are changing their major to a different PhD or DMA program.

Each academic program may nominate **one** prospective student for the Kemper Knapp University Fellowships. Eight total fellowships are available.

GUARANTEE OF ADMISSION

A nomination to the Kemper Knapp University Fellowship Competition constitutes a **GUARANTEE** of admission by the department if the nominee is offered the award.

RESPONSE DATE

The University of Wisconsin-Madison adheres to the CGS Resolution regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants, which states that students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15. To require a response prior to the date would violate the agreement. We expect programs to honor this resolution.

INFORMATION FOR FELLOWS

As part of their offer letters, Kemper Knapp University Fellows will be provided with important details on the terms and conditions of their fellowship, including information about:

- Stipend payment timeline
- Tuition/fees administration
- Benefits
- Requesting housing priority status
- Full-time study
- Satisfactory progress
- Income taxes
- Concurrent appointments

TIMELINE FOR SPRING 2017

Thursday, February 16 – Friday, March 3 (Deadline: Noon sharp)

Programs submit nominations to the Graduate School using FluidReview.

Monday, March 6 – Friday, March 17

Kemper Knapp University Fellowship Committee reviews nominations and chooses awardees.

Monday, March 20

Graduate School sends results and offer letters to programs for distribution to awardees.

Programs should send offer letters to awardees as soon as possible after this date, along with any additional program-specific information or offers of departmental support.

NOTE: Additional Kemper Knapp University Fellowship offers may be made later if offers are declined.

Saturday, April 15 (CGS & program response deadline)

Monday, April 17 – Friday, April 21

Programs submit final University Fellowship acceptance reports, including Kemper Knapp University Fellows, to the Graduate School.

Monday, May 1

Graduate School sends confirmation letters to programs for distribution to fellowship recipients.

LINK FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS: <https://gsoffr-uwmadison.fluidreview.com/>

NOMINATION INFORMATION COMPONENTS:

The on-line nomination site will ask for the following information:

- *Student Name and Campus ID#*
- *Undergraduate degree institution and graduation date (mm/yy)*
- *Undergraduate GPA, as listed on transcripts.* International GPAs should be reported as they appear on the individual's application materials.
- *Additional degree information:* other degree (e.g., master's), degree date (mm/yy), institution, degree subject
- *Nomination Statement:* A statement of no more than 2,000 characters should be prepared by the prospective mentor, graduate advisor, and/or admissions chair. The letter should help the Kemper Knapp University Fellowship Committee understand how the nominee is viewed by the department. How well does the prospective student fit with the program and mentor? Why is this nominee strong (i.e., ranked as they are by the program)?
- *Fit with Kemper Knapp Stipulations:* please prepare a statement of no more than 2,000 characters indicating (1) how this student can be considered underrepresented for your discipline and how you expect this student to both contribute to and benefit from the community in your academic program, and (2) how your program can be considered

underfunded. As possible, also include how the student aligns with the Kemper Knapp ideals of honesty, sincerity, earnestness, tolerance, and social and political obligations.

As part of the nomination process, you will be asked to upload three PDF files that contain:

- Three letters of recommendation from the student's graduate application (one PDF file). *Please do not include any bubble rating sheets.*
- Statement of purpose from student's graduate application (one PDF file)
- Undergraduate transcripts (and graduate transcripts, if applicable; one PDF file)
- DO NOT INCLUDE COVER LETTERS, BUBBLE RATING SHEETS, OR ANY ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS.

QUESTIONS

Contact the Graduate School's Office of Fellowship and Funding Resources (offr@grad.wisc.edu) if you have questions regarding any of the policies or benefits for Kemper Knapp University Fellows described in this document.