

January 8, 2007

TO: Ph.D. Students in Economics

FROM: Greg Huffman, DGS, Department of Economics

SUBJECT: Spring 2007 Competition for Dissertation Enhancement Grants

Nature of the Grants: Non-taxable awards of up to \$2000 made to Ph.D. candidates for the purpose of providing a new dimension, adding depth or breadth to the student's research. Grants are not meant to support the basic, fundamental, or essential aspects of the candidate's dissertation work.

Deadline: Friday, February 16, 2007, 4:00 p.m. The original plus seven copies of the completed application (**total of 11**) must be received by me by the deadline. Late applications cannot be considered.

Review of Proposals and Announcement of Awards: The Student Affairs Committee of the Graduate Faculty Council reviews Dissertation Enhancement Grant applications and applicants will be informed of the results of the competition by mail by the end of March 2006. Successful applicants are expected to use the award within the following six-month period.

Eligibility: Each department or program may nominate up to TWO students who have passed the Ph.D. qualifying examination and who have had their dissertation proposal approved before the application deadline. Applicants must be registered students engaged in full-time dissertation research. A student may receive a grant only one time during his or her graduate studies at Vanderbilt.

Funding: The Graduate School provides one-half of each award. Arts and Science, Divinity, Management, Nursing, and Peabody deans provide the remaining one-half of awards to students in their programs. Departments in the School of Engineering and the School of Medicine must be prepared to provide one-half of the amount awarded to students in their programs.

Uses of the Grant: Examples of uses appropriate for a Dissertation Enhancement Grant include support for:

1. Travel to sites of unique sources of research material, archives, libraries.
2. Consultation or collaborative work with experts in the area of the student's research when such support is not available at Vanderbilt, for example: learning new research methodology, interviewing an author whom the student is studying.
3. Unique services not available at the university, such as sophisticated data or chemical analyses.
4. Participation in a workshop directly relevant to the student's research (e.g., to learn methodology) or a conference specific to the student's area of study (e.g., NOT just to hear general discussion or to present a paper). An application in this category is strengthened by evidence that conference presenters are willing to meet with the student to discuss his or her research.
5. The purchase of specialized small equipment items, supplies, data sets, **only** if funds for such items are not available from other sources (advisor's grant, departmental funds).

NOTE: Departments will be required to pay one-half of the cost of any equipment item (which must remain at Vanderbilt).

6. A research assistant or other personnel to carry out the newly proposed work that the student could not reasonably be expected to conduct (extensive analysis of data, computer programming, etc.) without additional help.
7. Payment of subjects participating in a research project, if the project is in addition to the basic dissertation research (e.g., is not required by the Ph.D. Committee) and if a strong rationale is provided to show that subject payment, although not required, will enhance markedly the quality, scope, reliability, etc. of the data collected.

Criteria for Review: Proposals demonstrating most clearly that a grant will enable a student to enhance already high quality work will receive top rankings. The Student Affairs Committee will recommend funding the most highly ranked proposals as fully as possible up to the maximum of \$2000, rather than attempting to support all meritorious proposals at some, possibly less-than-optimal level. The number of applications for Dissertation Enhancement Grants has increased substantially over the past several years, and the costs of travel and research have also increased; consequently, some deserving proposals will inevitably go unfunded.

Applications: The complete application packet with directions is available in the Graduate School, 411 Kirkland Hall, or at the Graduate School's Web site:

www.vanderbilt.edu/gradschool/enhance.html

Please contact Richard Hoover by phone at 322-3944 or by e-mail

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if you or your students have questions about the suitability of a proposal for a Dissertation Enhancement Grant.