

## 2011 AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research Application: Frequently Asked Questions

*What is the deadline for submission of applications?*

Applications and supporting documents must be received by December 1, 2010. **Late applications will not be accepted.**

*What is the notification date of the awards?*

Applicants will be notified of their award status by May 2011.

*Can I apply if I am not in a department or school of education?*

Yes. You can be a doctoral candidate in any field, as long as your dissertation topic relates to education research.

*Does my dissertation research have to be quantitative?*

Applicants' dissertation studies may include quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method research techniques.

*Is there an example of a successful application from previous years?*

AERA is unable to make previous applications publicly available. However, potential applicants are encouraged to read "The Art of Writing Proposals" an article published by the Social Science Research Council about crafting a competitive research proposal. Please visit [www.ssrc.org](http://www.ssrc.org) for more information.

*Who evaluates the applications?*

Fellowship applications are read and evaluated by a committee of education research scholars. AERA strongly encourages applicants to have their dissertation advisor as well as colleagues from other departments and fields read their applications to provide general feedback and ensure that the application can be understood by readers across the education research field.

*Can I get feedback on my turned down application?*

No. Due to the quantity of applications received AERA is unable to provide feedback on dissertation applications.

*Where can I find more information on the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research?*

Please visit the AERA Fellowships and Grants webpage ([www.aera.net/fellowships.htm](http://www.aera.net/fellowships.htm)) for further information.

*Who is eligible for the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research?*

The AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research is open to U.S. citizens or permanent residents only. Applicants must work full-time on their dissertations and course requirements. This program is targeted for members of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in higher education (e.g., African Americans, Alaskan Natives, American Indians, Asian Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders).

*What is the acceptable format to submit the personal statement, dissertation research prospectus, and curriculum vita?*

All uploaded documents must be submitted in PDF.

*Do letters of recommendation have to be mailed to AERA?*

Letters of recommendation must be mailed to AERA. Applicants are responsible for ensuring their letters are received by December 1, 2010.

*Is an official transcript required for the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship application?*

Yes. AERA must receive official graduate school transcripts by December 1, 2010.

*Will AERA accept letters of recommendation or transcripts electronically?*

No. Letters of recommendation and official graduate school transcripts must be mailed to AERA.

*Are there guidelines for how the funding can be spent?*

Funds may be used for tuition and/or institution fees, books, living expenses, equipment, travel, supplies, computing time, and other related research expenses. Please refer to the grant announcement for further information.

*If I am awarded a grant, when can I expect to receive funding?*

July 1, 2011 is the earliest we will disburse funds for the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research.

*What if I currently have funding from another source?*

The AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research is designed to be a primary source of funding for grantees. While grantees may accept small sources of funding (i.e., teaching or research assistantships, departmental awards, small travel grants), they may not hold large awards concurrently (i.e. Spencer or Ford Fellowships).

*Can an applicant receive the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research if they have not advanced to PhD candidacy yet?*

Funds can not be disbursed until after the grantee has advanced to candidacy and not before July 1, 2011.

*At what stage in graduate school should I apply for the fellowship?*

Applicants should be in the final writing stage of their dissertation. This fellowship program is intended as a write-up fellowship.

*What is the tenure and amount of the AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research?*

The AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research provides funding for up to \$12,000 for a 1-year project and \$1,000 reimbursement to attend the AERA Annual Meeting. Fellows are required to present their research in an invited poster session during the 2011 AERA Annual Meeting.

*How should I contact AERA?*

You may email questions to AERA at [fellowships@era.net](mailto:fellowships@era.net) or call 202-238-3200.

Letters of recommendation and official graduate school transcripts must be mailed to AERA at the following address:

AERA Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research  
AERA  
1430 K Street, NW Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20005