

Stewart CON Doctoral Dissertation Award

The College of Nursing is the recipient of a generous gift from the Stewart family. The funds may be used for financial assistance for doctoral students working on their dissertations. The intent is to disburse these funds in a way that will assist in maintaining the high quality of research of our students and expedite their progress in the final stages of the doctoral program. Requests for financial assistance for dissertation work are invited. Because the funds are limited, and in order to provide needed support for as many students as possible, the following guidelines have been adopted:

The maximum award is \$500 and, if they meet the criteria, two awards will be given yearly. If you are planning a more expensive study, you should apply to other sources such as: Sigma Theta Tau International, the American Nurses Foundation, the regional research organizations (SNRS, ENRS, MNRS, WIN), or other professional groups.

There are no restrictions on allowable costs as long as they are directly related to the dissertation research, with the following exceptions: funds for computer analysis or other University services routinely available for students without charge must be used unless special requirements necessitate additional or different funds. Funds may not be used for travel to disseminate findings but may be used for travel required to complete the research, such as travel to subject's homes.

The following materials should be submitted to the Director of the Doctoral Program by February 1 or October 1:

- A Specific Aims page, not to exceed 750 words, describing the proposed research.
- An estimated budget which is itemized and, where reasons for the items are not obvious, justified. For any personnel requested, be sure to include benefits costs. The benefit rate changes and should be obtained from the Research Office.
- The signature of the chairperson of the dissertation committee signifying that he or she has assisted with the budget estimate or, at the least, concurs with its validity and that the request for these funds is appropriate.

Requests for these funds should be made after the dissertation committee has reviewed and approved the dissertation plan and before expenditures included in the request are made. A *signed Plan of Research document and the IRB approval must be on file* before funds can be released. Reimbursement cannot be made for expenditures incurred before funding approval.

The availability of and criteria for the Award will be posted on the Doctoral website. The director of the Doctoral Program appoints an *ad hoc* committee of three doctoral faculty to determine the award recipient(s).

In all citations of the funded work, the student will acknowledge the support of the Stewart CON Dissertation Award fund.

Award criteria* include:

- **Significance:** Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of this study on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?
- **Approach:** Are the conceptual or clinical framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the project? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics?
- **Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice; address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?
- **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?
- **Other funding:** Priority will be given to students who do not have other funding for their research.

*NINR Research Funding and Programs, retrieved April 26, 2006 from:
<http://ninr.nih.gov/ninr/research/dea/PARFAPage.html#current>

Template for this award text found at the University of Washington, School of Nursing webpage, retrieved April 26, 2006 from:
http://www.son.washington.edu/students/phd_support_mclaws.asp

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Accepted: May 1, 2006

Stewart CON Doctoral Dissertation Award Check-off Sheet

In order to be eligible for the Award, the following documents must accompany the application:

1. Specific Aims page not to exceed 750 words including a brief statement of need, the problem and specific aims, theory to be used, design and method, and potential for future funding.
2. Budget for \$500 or less, with justification. (N.B. - This award does not support travel for dissemination of findings.)
3. Signature of Dissertation Chairperson on budget page to verify concurrence with appropriateness of request.
4. Plan of Research document signed by all Committee Members found at:
<http://www.musc.edu/nursing/departments/student-services/current-doctoral.htm>
5. Copy of a submitted IRB approval found at <http://research.musc.edu/ori/irb/home.htm>
(No funds can be released without IRB approval on file.)
6. Copy of CITI/ University of Miami Program in the Protection of Human Research Subjects completion document.

A complete application must be sent to the Director of the Doctoral Program by February 1 or October 1.