

## APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 20

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Ph.D. students in the Department of Psychology are invited to apply for research awards and teaching assistantships for the summer of 2009.

**The Flowerree Summer Research Awards** These awards are made possible by another former student and long time benefactor, Mr. Robert E. Flowerree, who was an advisory member of the Tulane Board of Administrators and retired CEO of Georgia-Pacific. Mr. Flowerree provided the department with gifts intended to enrich faculty research. Providing summer research support to graduate students is one way that the department traditionally has used the Flowerree fund to support the research goals of its faculty. Students enrolled in the school psychology doctoral program or any area of psychological science doctoral program are eligible to apply. The research stipend is \$2000, and the Department makes a maximum of 6 awards; the number of awards depends upon the quality of the applications submitted and availability of funds.

**The William P. Dunlap Memorial Research Award** To honor Bill's memory and to continue his legacy of statistics and psychometrics, the Department established The William P. Dunlap Memorial Fund in 2002 (<http://www.tulane.edu/~dunlap/fund.htm>). The Award specifically funds the research of psychology doctoral students who are working in the areas of psychological methods, behavioral statistics, and psychometrics. Students enrolled in the school psychology doctoral program or any area of psychological science doctoral program are eligible to apply. The research stipend is \$2000, and the Department makes 1 award depending upon the appropriateness of applications to the donors' intent and the quality of the proposals.

**Teaching Assistantships.** The Summer School typically funds 2-4 teaching assistantships during the summer. TAs assigned as laboratory instructors earn \$2300. TAs assigned to nonlaboratory courses earn \$1500. Appointment of nonlaboratory TAs depends upon enrollment by the first day of class, so appointments are confirmed literally at the zero hour.

The Graduate Training Committee (GTC) will make recommendations to the Department Chair regarding both types of research award, as well as recommendations for summer teaching assistantships. Students interested in either a research award or TA for this summer should apply following the appended procedures. Students may apply for both a research award and a teaching assistantship, but students at most will receive only one type of award. For students that apply for both, the committee assumes that if they do not receive a research award that they would like to be considered for a teaching assistantship.

## Research Awards

The research awards are intended to facilitate students' progress in research with our faculty by providing some financial support for the summer months. Given the time frame, the proposed project may be part of a larger project (e.g., collecting pilot data). The proposal should be reasonable in terms of what can be accomplished during the summer, and the student should complete the project proposed.

Recipients will file monthly progress reports, endorsed by their faculty sponsor, to the GTC. Continued financial support during the summer will depend upon adequate progress, defined according to the timetable submitted by the student and approved by the GTC, as well as satisfactory progress in the program at the time the award begins.

Students receiving awards will be asked to deliver a departmental colloquium during the Fall or Spring semester, AY09-10.

In order to apply for a research award, students should submit SIX copies of the materials below to Ella Taylor-Paul by the deadline noted above. Any research project involving the psychology graduate faculty (e.g., independent research; dissertation) is eligible for funding. The Committee welcomes applications from graduate students at all levels. We hope to announce awards by mid-April. Students must remain in good academic standing to receive the award.

### Materials

1. Research proposal - 10 pages maximum, APA style, including:

Cover sheet: name of student, of faculty supervisor, title of project, nature of project (e.g., field trial, pilot data collection).

Abstract (approximately 150 words)

Introduction: brief review of theoretical and research bases of study and hypotheses

Method: explicit description of subjects, procedures, and analysis plan of how each hypothesis will be tested

Implications of expected results

References

Timetable for accomplishing steps in research

2. A letter from the sponsoring faculty member that addresses the project's merit, the likelihood that the project goals can be met within the proposed time frame, and the availability of research participants.

3. A copy of the approval letter from the appropriate Human or Animal Research Ethics Committee (i.e., IRB or IACUC). Approval should be sought sufficiently early so that approval has been granted by the time of this proposal submission.

4. A cover letter that includes:

-A statement regarding the students' past Flowerree or Dunlap support.

-Other sources of summer funding available to the student

- If the submitter wishes the proposal to be considered for the Dunlap Award, he or she briefly should indicate how it is appropriate for that award.

-Time estimated to be away from campus during the summer (i.e., awards presume a significant portion of the summer is spent on campus).

5. Current *curriculum vitae*

6. Students may append other pertinent material.

The Committee will consider primarily the scientific merit and feasibility of the proposed research in deciding these awards. However, the student's general progress and participation in research also will be taken into account. Specific attributes of the proposal that the Committee will consider include:

a. Is knowledge of the literature demonstrated?

b. Are research objectives clear?

c. Is methodology rigorous, and are statistical tools, measurement procedures, and conceptualizations of research design appropriate?

d. Is there evidence that the proposed work can be accomplished?

## Teaching Assistantships

Students interested in a summer TA should submit SIX COPIES of a letter to the Graduate Training Committee (via Ella Taylor-Paul), including the following information:

1. Course and instructor to which the student would prefer to be assigned, if any. Note that TA support is at the Summer School's discretion, so not all courses will receive TA support and some may receive partial support. The summer courses proposed to be offered for summer 2009 are listed on-line at <http://psych.tulane.edu/news/news.php#Sum09>
2. Plan of study for summer that the assistantship will make possible.
3. Advisor's statement of support.
4. Current *curriculum vitae*
5. Information regarding potential limitations on summer availability (e.g., leaving New Orleans during the first session; other awards or positions pending that would interfere with acceptance of the TA award; sitting for preliminary examinations). Limitations on availability and student preferences will be taken into consideration when assigning assistantships, but do not guarantee an award during the preferred time.
6. Other sources of summer funding available to the student

Decisions regarding summer teaching assistantships will be made by weighing a number of factors, including the student's previous contributions to and current standing in the department, the research activity or summer study that funding will make possible, the extent to which the student has the skills needed in order to carry out the assignment, previous ratings by TA supervisors, and the summer course instructor's recommendation. Students must remain in good academic standing to receive a summer TA.

Notification of receiving a summer TA is ordinarily delayed until very shortly before the beginning of summer session, because the number of positions funded by the Summer School depends upon course enrollment. Please keep Ms. Taylor-Paul apprised of any changes in your summer plans that might increase or decrease your availability.

