

MSU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

OCTOBER 17, 2025

DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

Goal:

Expedite completion of strong dissertations by
providing students funding to create release time
for dissertation work



DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

- Eligibility:
 - Comps passed date entered in Grad Plan by Nov. 7 at noon
 - Positioned to submit final dissertation to Grad School within one year of receiving DCF
 - PRIME students are eligible; EdD students are not
 - Proposal ideally will be passed when you apply; may be passed by December 15 at the latest for spring and April 1 at the latest for summer
 - DCF does not fund revisions after defense
- Award: \$9000 fellowship for spring, \$7000 for summer
 - May not work more than 10 hours/week—so, a $\frac{1}{4}$ time GA—at the same time
 - Students who work full time are invited to explain how this creates additional release time for them

DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

- Due: this fall to departments
- Process:
 - Departments review, prioritize, and submit ranked list to College by Monday, November 24
 - College confirms completeness of application & finalizes selection of students
 - College initiates the fellowships at the appropriate time

DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIP

- Application consists of:
- Approved/draft dissertation proposal (7000 words max—words, not pages)
 - Name, PID, year in program, advisor, proposal word count, references, appendices (this material isn't included in the word count)
 - Proposed research
 - Timeline with major benchmarks
- Transcript (MSU grad coursework only)
- Statement from dissertation director (if required by department)

SRF OR DCF?

- If a proposal is successfully defended before summer starts, summer should be funded by a DCF, not an SRF.
- A student in this position who has been granted an SRF should let us know and we will be glad to change the SRF to a DCF (same amount).
- However, if a student has a provisional summer DCF but does not defend successfully by April 1, we hope to be able to provide \$3500 for summer support rather than the DCF.

HOW MANY DCF AWARDS?

- Around 30 total
- Divided among departments proportionally
- In the past, higher overall % of success than SRFs

QUESTIONS?