Dissertation Completion Fellowships

Question and Answer session

October 12, 2026

MSU College of Education

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. 6, 2026 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 during fellowship—i.e., a ¼ time GA
  - Students who work full time may explain how this creates additional release time for them

Dissertation completion fellowships

- Due: October 30, 2026 at noon via a Qualtrics submission form
- Process:
  - Departments review, prioritize, and submit ranked list to College by Friday, November 20
  - College confirms completeness of application & finalizes selection of students
  - College informs applicants of decisions by early December
  - 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, appendicies (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 dissertation proposal is likely to be successfully defended before summer starts, apply for the DCF.

A student who unexpectedly defends their proposal but applied for and was 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 (32 in 2026)

Divided among departments proportionally

Questions?