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MSU College of Education

Summer Research Development Fellowships

Question and Answer session

November 10, 2026

Agenda

- Summer Research Development Fellowships
  - For students finishing their first year full-time this April/May
- Fellowships initiated (paid out) in late spring semester
  - If initiated in summer semester, enrollment required
  - See Carrie Oney if you have federal financial aid

- *Summer Research Fellowships*
  - *Decisions coming out after finals (not the focus of today)*
- *Dissertation Completion Fellowships*
  - *Decisions coming out after finals (not the focus of today)*



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Summer Research Development Fellowships (SRDF)

- Goals :
  - Develop research skills & approaches
  - Support early-stage doctoral students

Summer Research Development Fellowships

- Eligibility:
  - Full-time students, after first year
  - Part time students, no more than 18 credits completed
  - Not UDF students because their summer is already funded
- Award: $7000 fellowship
- Due: Friday, January 22, 2027 AT NOON to the College (Qualtrics link in announcement & on webpage)
- Selection process:
  - Departments will be allocated a certain number of awards so that all departments have ~ the same rate of funded applications
  - Department faculty review & rate applications



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Summer Research Development Fellowships

- Time:
  - 2 months full-time effort (40 hours/week)
  - Can be divided in various ways
  - Can pro-rate the award (i.e. for 1 month, or 1.5 months)
  - School Psych students' awards will be pro-rated to 1 month
- Other work/classes
  - Recipients can do other work and can take classes
- Whose research?
  - YOURS



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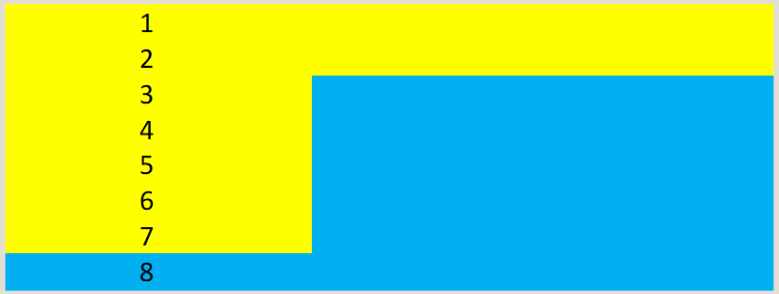
Fellowship flexibility

1 month of full-time work (so, a $3500 award) can look like this:

Yellow = research, blue = other









How we support your summer research

- For Summer 2026, we developed:
  - A series of workshops led by faculty or senior doctoral students
  - October poster session
- For Summer 2027, we hope to add:
  - Peer mentoring & writing groups led by senior doctoral students
  - Programming to better serve all students across the College



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Summer Research Development Fellowship

Application consists of:

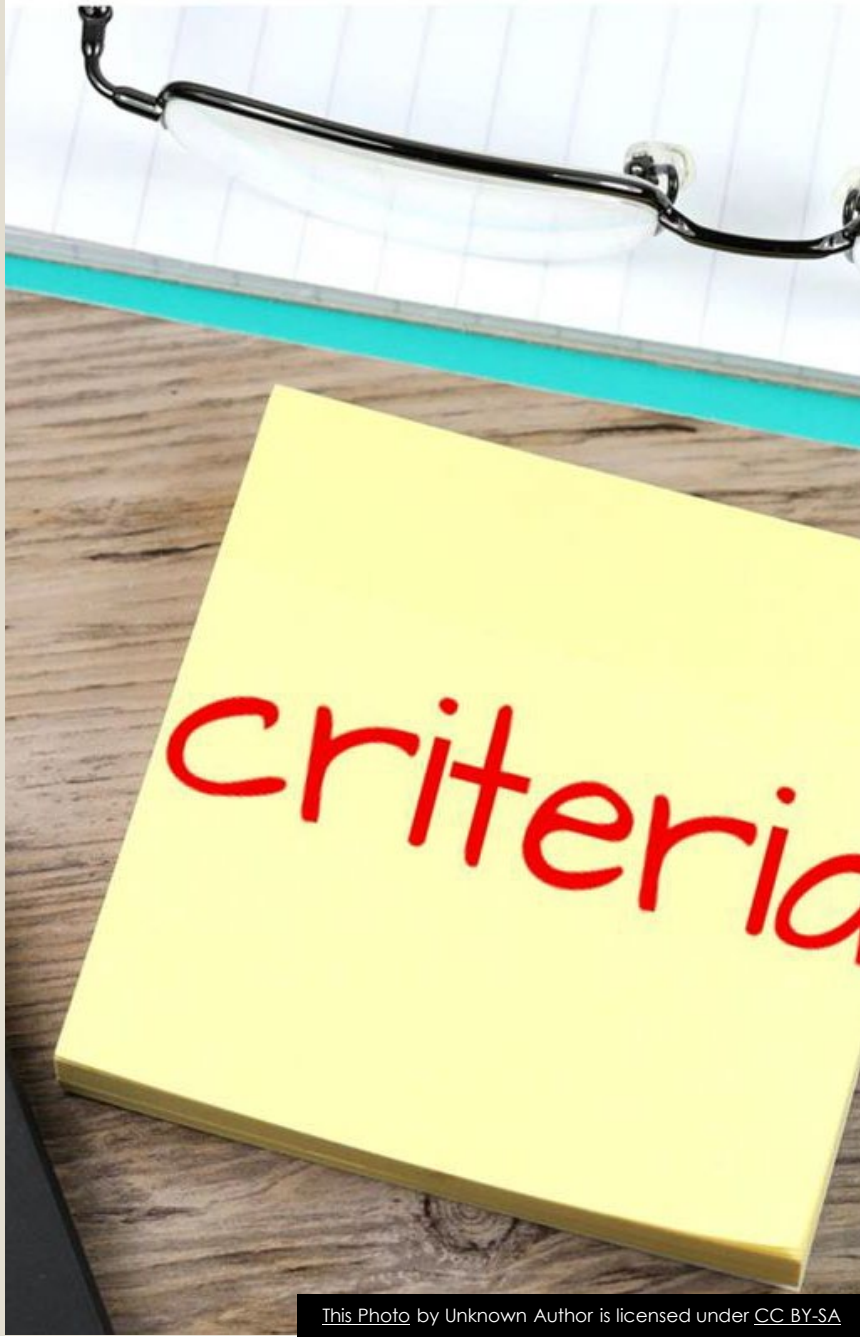
- Proposal (700 words max—words, not pages)
  - Name, year in program, mentor name, proposal word count (this material isn't included in the word count)
  - Proposed plan for research skill development
- Transcript (MSU grad coursework only)

Summer Research Development Fellowship

Selection criteria are set by the department

Prior evaluators have considered to what degree…

- Proposal is well-written and well-organized
- Author demonstrates an understanding of the field and its direction
- Importance of skills/approaches in the field
- Development of skills/approaches likely to advance student's research significantly
- The scope of the proposal is appropriate
- The applicant's academic record is strong



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Summer Research Development Fellowship

Proposal writing tips:

- Read the proposal—what is it asking for?
- Read examples of successful proposals
- 700 words isn't much
- ORA advice:
  - Grant writing is a different *genre*
  - Condense intro & lit review
  - Make sure to include research plan & timeline



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Examples

- These are from the all-college competition; listen to your departments
- We've posted past highly-successful proposals online with authors' consent
- How to find this:
  - Google MSU SRDF Education
  - From education.msu.edu, click on "Academics" drop down menu and select "Graduate Student Support"

Disbursing “summer” funding

- Students can only receive fellowship funds during a semester they are enrolled
- Doctoral students are not normally enrolled in summer
- We will plan to initiate (start the payout of) SRDFs late in spring semester
- UNLESS a student has federal financial aid (federal loans)—LET US KNOW IF THIS IS YOUR SITUATION!
- Processing time—plan ahead



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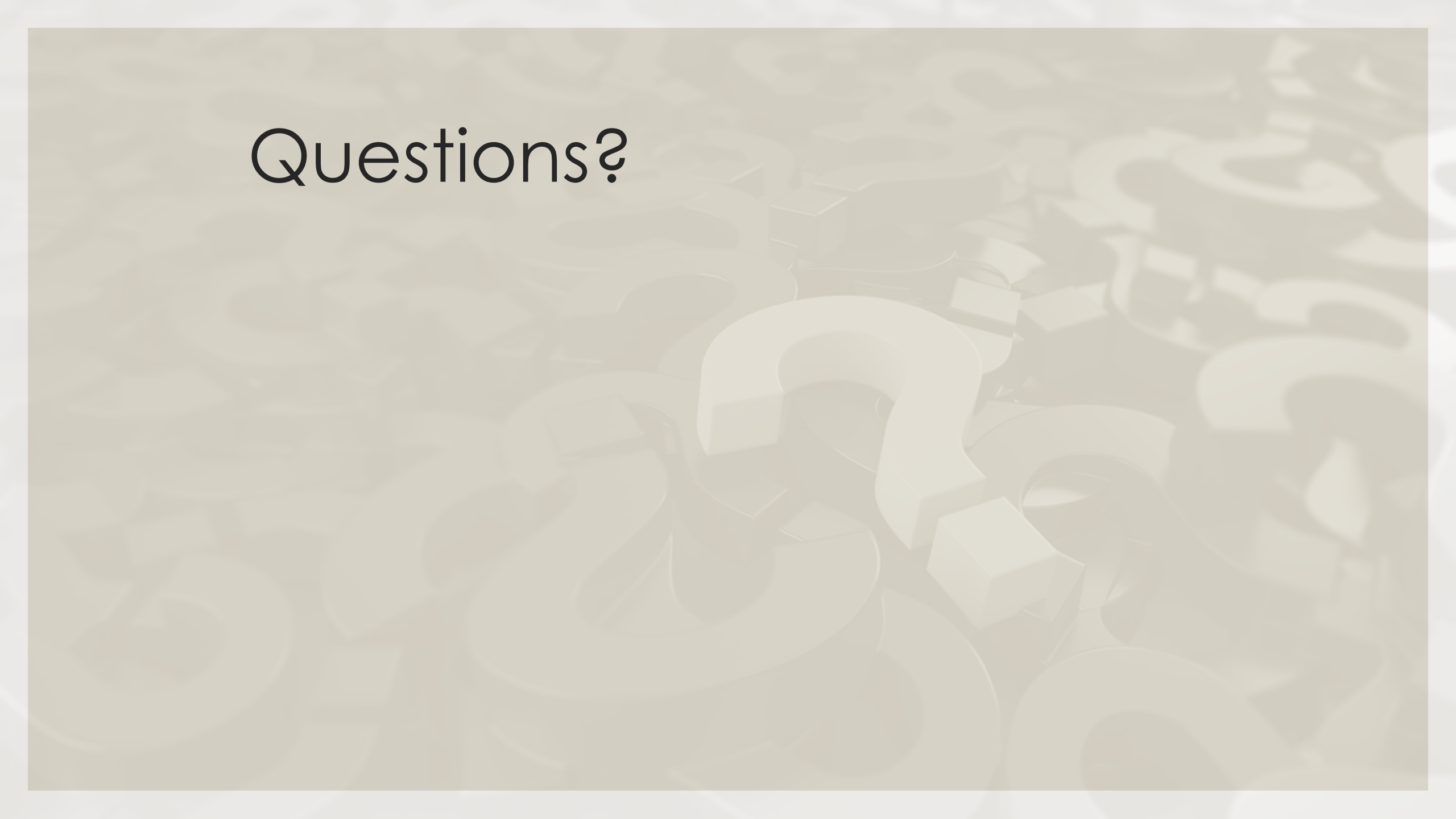
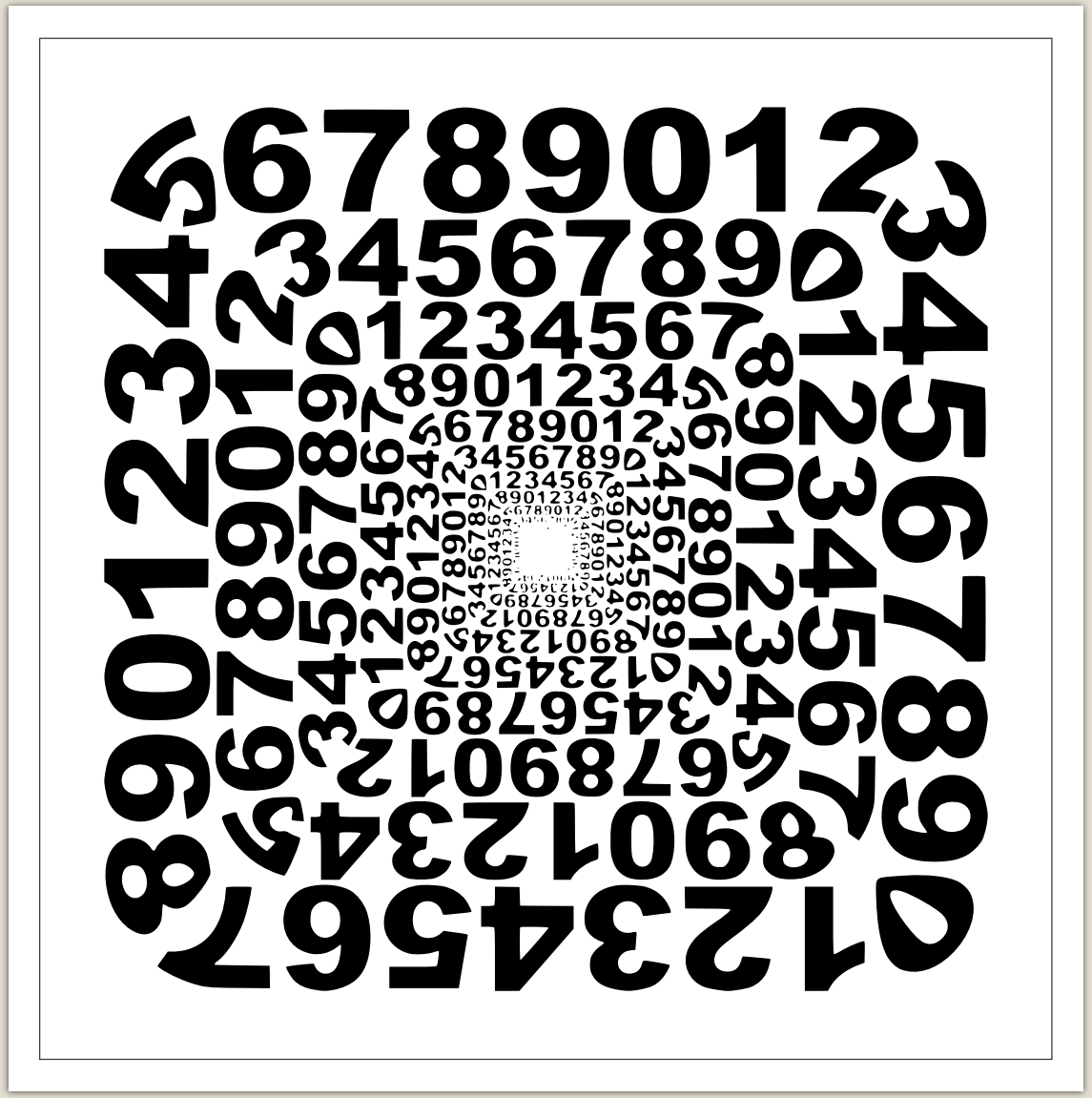
Questions?





How many awards?

- Summer 2022, 35 students applied, 86% (30) were funded
- Summer 2023, 40 students applied, 80% (32) were funded
- Summer 2024, 53 students applied, 72% (38) were funded
- Summer 2025, 51 students applied, 76% (39) were funded
- Summer 2026, 45 students applied, 80% (36) were funded