

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

### *The Whitney M. Young Graduate Fellowship Program*



The University of Illinois Springfield awards a number of Whitney M. Young Graduate Fellowships to qualified students each year. The program is a memorial to the late Whitney M. Young, Jr., former Executive Director of the National Urban League, educator, and activist. It is designed to help students achieve their educational and professional goals, and to complement their academic studies with research and/or service opportunities in public affairs or public policy. The program is aimed at helping the campus achieve a rich and diverse educational environment and increasing opportunities in graduate education for highly motivated students who are underrepresented in graduate study at UIS. This includes, but is not limited to, ethnic/racial minorities, first-generation college students, and students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



### *CONTACT us for more information*

For information related to the WMY Program, you can visit the web site, send an email or call the office.

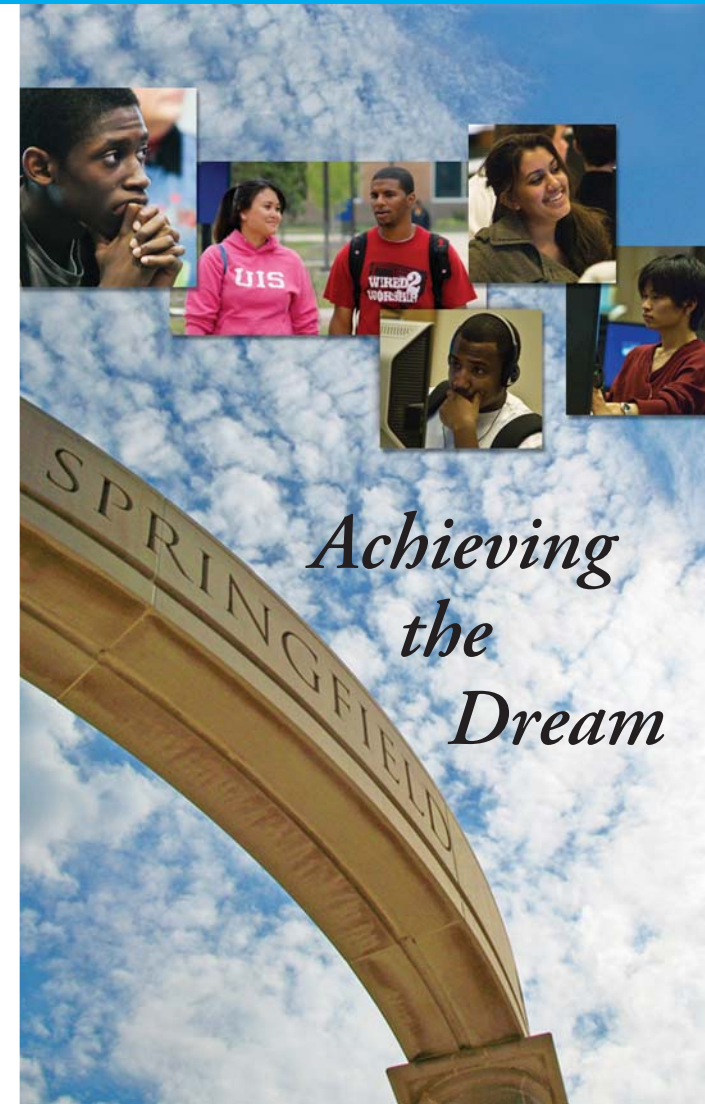
Application materials should be e-mailed or mailed to the addresses below. *Please note:* If you email, type “WMY application” in the subject line.

#### **Whitney M. Young Graduate Fellowship Program**

University of Illinois Springfield  
One University Plaza, MS PAC 525  
Springfield, IL 62703-5407

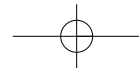
Telephone (217) 206-6544  
Toll free (888) 977-4847  
Fax (217) 206-7623  
Email [gaprog@uis.edu](mailto:gaprog@uis.edu)  
[www.uis.edu/wmy](http://www.uis.edu/wmy)

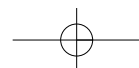
**UIS Office of Admissions**  
Telephone (217) 206-4847  
Toll free (888) 977-4847  
Fax (217) 206-6620  
Email [admissions@uis.edu](mailto:admissions@uis.edu)  
[www.uis.edu/admissions](http://www.uis.edu/admissions)



**THE  
WHITNEY M. YOUNG  
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP  
PROGRAM**

[uis.edu/wmy](http://uis.edu/wmy)





# THE WHITNEY M. YOUNG GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



## Am I eligible to apply?

The Whitney M. Young Fellowship program serves to provide assistance to graduate students including, but not limited to, ethnic/racial minorities, first-generation college students, and students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Those who wish to apply must meet the following criteria:

- Be classified as either a U. S. citizen or resident alien. (International students with F-1 or similar temporary visa status are not eligible to apply.)
- Achieved a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0, or if applying as a graduate student, be maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
- Be conditionally or fully admitted to a UIS graduate degree program.

## How do I apply?

Submit the following documents to the address noted in the "Contact" section of this brochure:

- A completed application for the Whitney M. Young Fellowship Program.
- A 500-700 word essay in which you discuss one academic success and one difficult academic challenge you faced as an undergraduate student. Address how these experiences helped to prepare you for graduate study at UIS and for possible participation as a WMY Fellow.
- A current resume.
- A statement of educational goals.
- Three current letters of reference (dated no older than one year). At least two of these references must be from professors or academic advisors familiar with your academic performance. (If it has been several years since your last enrollment as a

college student, please contact the WMY Fellowship Program Office to discuss your situation.)

- Official undergraduate transcripts and, if applicable, official graduate transcripts from all colleges or universities which you have attended. (*NOTE:* These documents must be submitted to the UIS Office of Admissions, and copies will be requested by the WMY Program Office.)

Please note that all of the above listed documents must be on file with the WMY Fellowship Program Office before your file is considered complete and is eligible to be reviewed for consideration.

**The annual application deadline date is March 1st.**

## What benefits are awarded?

If you are selected, Whitney M. Young Fellows receive tuition waivers for 12 credit hours per semester and monthly stipends during the regular academic year (i.e., fall and spring semesters). Fees are not waived. Fellows may request to receive tuition waiver benefits for a maximum of 6 hours during the summer semester, and if the request is approved by the Director, they will receive one monthly stipend. Summer assistance is contingent upon available funding.

The fellowship offers a **maximum of 30 credit hours of tuition waiver proceeds per academic year** (fall, spring and summer semesters). Any course taken beyond the 30 hour limit is billed to the Fellow according to his/her residency status. (*NOTE:* Fellows enrolled in accelerated graduate degree programs which require taking more than 30 credit hours per academic year must consult with the WMY Program Director as soon as possible.)

## What are the requirements of the program?

- ◆ To maintain eligibility, Fellows must enroll and remain enrolled during the fall and spring semesters in a minimum of 12 eligible graduate-level credit hours each semester. Course loads which exceed or fall below the minimum enrollment level must be approved by the academic program and by the WMY Director. (Petitions are filed to seek this approval.) No incomplete grades can be earned in any enrolled hours, and a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 must be maintained. Fellows must complete their graduate degree programs within a two-year time frame.
- ◆ Fellows will be required to attend all WMY Fellowship Seminars, and participate in the seminar activities as defined by the Director.
- ◆ To enhance research and leadership skills, a public service project will be selected in consultation with the Director. (Fellows

are not considered employees of the University. The stipend is awarded for the contractual period with an expectation that this will, on average, permit the student approximately 20 hours per week of time to dedicate to project-related work.)

◆ A service-related work plan, mid-year performance evaluation, and end-of-year evaluation will be submitted by the required deadline dates defined by the Director. The work plan will address both academic and service goals for the coming year. The mid-year performance evaluation will be formative in nature, and will identify both progress and areas of concern related to the service component of the WMY Program. The end-of-year evaluation will be a comprehensive evaluation of the progress made in both academic and service areas, and will include the original work plan, the mid-year evaluation, a supervisor's evaluation (if applicable), comments from program faculty and/or staff (if applicable), samples of projects or other documentation to illustrate progress made on the service project, and a written overview of the progress made in both academic work, as well as in service activities during the academic year.

◆ The WMY Fellowship is designed to help students pursue their graduate degrees full-time and to aid in completing those degrees in a timely manner. Because of the academic focus of the program, the seminars, and the service component of the program, combined with the financial support provided by the Fellowship, the Fellow is advised to limit the number of hours worked either on- or off-campus during the academic semester. Any extracurricular employment, whether on- or off-campus, must not interfere with the Fellow's ability to fulfill his/her academic, seminar, or service obligations during the two-year time frame established for degree completion under this program.

◆ Fellows beginning their first year of the program must complete an I-9 form within three working days of the first date of the contractual period to verify eligibility for employment. This form is submitted to the UIS Human Resources Office in HRB 30. For more information, visit the HR web site [www.uis.edu/humanresources/policies/HRForms.html](http://www.uis.edu/humanresources/policies/HRForms.html).

◆ University regulations or policies will not be violated, and Fellows will abide by all policies set forth by the WMY Program.

◆ An agreement will be signed for each year the Fellow is a participant in the WMY Program. (*NOTE:* A Fellowship Reappointment Request form, which will be evaluated by the Director, must be completed and submitted at the end of the first year of the Fellowship to apply for continued participation during the second year.)

