Graduate College Diversity Funding Initiatives

Brief Overview – Jackson Award and McNair Scholarship

- Underrepresented students hold US citizenship and identify as African American, American Indian, Hispanic/Latinx, Alaska natives, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
- Both funding programs are a two-year commitment from the Graduate College for master’s and doctoral students.
- The second year of funding will require that the student has a fully approved POSC.
- Only DOGEs of graduate majors can nominate prospective students. Applicants may not nominate themselves.
- The nomination portal will open during the first week of December and close on February 26th. The review process will begin immediately after the deadline.
- The Graduate College will not fund the tuition scholarships that assistantship awardees must receive.
- Students who do not graduate by the end of the award period must continue to be supported with half-time GAs funded entirely from outside the Graduate College.
- Graduate College staff will verify McNair program participation if student has checked “YES” to the “Are you a McNair Scholar?” question on the application.
- Graduate College staff will follow-up with award recipients at the end of their first semester and year to know about their experience.

The George A. Jackson Award (all graduate programs may nominate students)
The Jackson Award is named for Dr. George A. Jackson, assistant dean of the Graduate College from 1994 to 2009, who had a strong commitment to and passion for the recruitment and graduation of underrepresented students. The award aims to promote ethnic diversity and inclusion of graduate students from populations historically underrepresented in American higher education. This award is a two-year commitment for both master’s and doctoral students recruited for a fall entry term and appointed as half-time GAs. The Graduate College will contribute $12,000 each year (12 month) as a contribution to the stipend, plus a $300 contribution towards mandatory fees. Master’s students will receive 50% of tuition, which together with tuition scholarship, gives 100% tuition coverage, plus a $300 contribution towards mandatory fees.

Iowa State Ronald E. McNair Scholarship
This scholarship is designed to increase the number of McNair Scholars studying at Iowa State. The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is federally funded and national in scope. McNair Scholars are prepared as undergraduate juniors and seniors to enter graduate school the fall term after completion of bachelor degree requirements. They typically are highly motivated and more fully informed about how to adjust to graduate school than other new students. McNair Scholars identify as first-generation, low-income, or identify as underrepresented. Iowa State waives the graduate application fee for all McNair applicants. Approved applicants will receive one-time scholarships of $3,000 (master’s students) or $6,000 (doctoral students). Each scholarship will be awarded in two parts: 1/3 at the beginning of the first semester and 2/3 upon full approval of the POSC. This scholarship may be combined with the George A. Jackson Award.

Diane Brandt Scholarship for Women
Diane Brandt, a 1961 ISU alumna, established an endowed fund in 2010 to serve many generations of ISU women admitted into Ph.D. programs in science, mathematics, agriculture, engineering, and in other fields in which women have traditionally been underrepresented. Approved applicants will receive a one-time $5000 ($2500 each semester) scholarship to be awarded in the first year only. Currently enrolled students are ineligible. As a privately funded scholarship, the Graduate College has no control over the small number that we are given each year.