

Graduate Assistance In Areas Of National Need (CFDA No. 84.200)

I. Legislation

Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title IX, Part D as amended (20 U.S.C. 11341-1134q-1) (expires September 30,1997).

II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1988	\$17,659,000
1989	12,844,000
1990	15,793,000
1991	24,885,000
1992	28,000,000
1993	27,498,000
1994	27,498,000
1995	27,252,000
1996	27,252,000

III. Analysis of Program Performance

A. Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to sustain and enhance the capacity for teaching and research in areas of national need by providing, through academic departments and programs at institutions of higher education, fellowships to assist graduate students of superior ability who demonstrate financial need.

B. Strategies to Achieve the Goals

Services Supported

Fellowships must be in an academic area that the Secretary has designated as an area of national need. In the program's first year of operation, FY 1988, the Department determined that the areas of national need were chemistry, engineering, mathematics, and physics. In 1991, "less commonly taught foreign languages" (languages other than French, German, Italian, and Spanish) were added to the four previously designated areas.

The program provides fellowships at selected institutions of higher education to graduate students of superior ability who demonstrate financial need. Since the Higher Education Amendments of 1992, financial need is determined in the same manner as for Title IV student aid awards. Previously, need was established under criteria established by institutions.

Fellowships are awarded to graduate students through selected institutions of higher education. In FY 1992, 118 noncompeting continuation awards and 46 new awards were made to institutions. The new awards included 6 in biology, 13 in chemistry, 11 in engineering, 3 in foreign languages, 7 in mathematics, and 6 in physics. In FY 1993, as a result of changes in the program enacted under the

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1992 Higher Education Amendments, 144 noncompeting continuation awards, but no new awards, were made to institutions.

Competitive awards to institutions are made annually and can be renewed for a total of up to three years. Awards in FY 1992 ranged from \$100,000, the minimum allowable, to \$400,000. The average new award in FY 1992 was \$168,310 compared with an average award of \$168,825 in FY 1991. Awards are capped at \$500,000. Because of the three-year grant cycle, the number of new awards varies annually--46 new awards (out of 276 applications submitted) were funded in FY 1992.

Through FY 1992, approximately 5,185 fellowships were granted from total cumulative funding of \$89,181,000. FY 1992, the average fellowship increased from \$12,323 to \$14,187. Between FY 1988 and the cumulative number of fellowships in various academic areas since FY 1988 are as follows: biology, 49; chemistry, 1,472; engineering, 1,140; foreign languages, 84; mathematics, 1,196; and physics, 1,244.

Fellowships awarded under these grants include a stipend that may not exceed \$14,000 per calendar year, and an amount to the institution not to exceed \$9,000 per calendar year to cover tuition, fees, and other educational costs. Institutions receiving grants must match federal funds with a 25 percent contribution to be used for additional fellowships that meet the purposes of the authorizing legislation. The 1992 amendments raised the maximum award to \$750,000 while leaving the minimum award at \$100,000. In FY 1993, noncompeting awards ranged from \$100,000 to \$400,000.

Strategic Initiatives

In FY 1995, foreign languages were deleted as an area of national need and computer sciences were added.

C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness

Indicators are under development. See also Office-Wide Performance Indicators for the Office of Postsecondary Education displayed in the Overview (OPS) to the postsecondary education programs.

IV. Planned Studies

The program plans a survey of program participants within the next two years.

V. Sources of Information

1. Program files.

VI. Contacts for Further Information

Program Operations: Cosette Ryan (202) 260-3608

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