EDGE•SBE
Fellows Program

Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

Stanford University
Texas A&M University
University of Southern California
The University of Texas at Austin
Our collaborative multi-university effort aims to address the under-representation of Hispanics/Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans in graduate programs in the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBEs) at our four institutions. Our immediate goal is to increase the enrollment, retention, and successful graduation of under-represented minority students in the SBE sciences. In the long-term we hope to increase the number of faculty in these fields from under-represented minorities. The National Science Foundation is providing the funding for our joint efforts to recruit students interested in careers in academia and in government.

Graduate Diversity Fellows receive funds that represent a supplement to the basic financial packages for graduate students (e.g., teaching assistantships, research assistantships, etc.) at each institution to leverage additional training, summer experiences and professional travel.

Students accepted as Graduate Diversity Fellows will participate in an annual research conference (e.g., alternating locations each year). This opportunity allows young scholars to present ideas, obtain feedback, and network with peers and advisors in a highly supportive atmosphere.

At each university, a Diversity Director dedicated to the SBE Sciences works with key faculty and administrators on campus to implement all aspects of the program. The Diversity Director also serves as a key resource for incoming fellows. Diversity Directors will work closely with one another and provide essential links between the four campuses.
The Four Universities and the Targeted Disciplines

We are focusing our current efforts on social science disciplines at each institution (which vary across the campuses), with sociology being the core discipline at each site.

At Stanford University, the EDGE•SBE program is a broadly interdisciplinary effort with support from the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) and the new Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (IRiSS) in addition to collaboration with the Departments of Sociology, Political Science and Psychology.

At The University of Texas at Austin, the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and Government will serve as the principal core disciplines. Each of these departments has a strong record of recruiting minority students and has recently hired several faculty members from under-represented groups. Fellows may also become associated with the Population Research Center (PRC), which provides a strongly supportive and multidisciplinary research environment.

At the University of Southern California (USC), to focus the proposed activities, the Graduate School will concentrate on the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) in the areas of sociology; political science; geography; anthropology; linguistics; psychology; economics; policy, planning, and development, and communication. Many of the SBE disciplines are represented in the Program for American Studies and Ethnicity (PASE) (http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/pase/), which also has a strong track record of attracting under-represented students.

At Texas A&M University, the Department of Sociology has a long history of participation in programs to increase the representation of minority graduate students. The two other departments participating in the EDGE•SBE program include Political Science and Psychology, each of which has experienced success in the recruitment of minority graduate students as well as faculty.
A National Science Foundation (NSF)-sponsored collaborative effort of Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences programs.

If you are interested in applying to graduate school and becoming an NSF-supported EDGE-SBE fellow at any of our four universities, please contact us.

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