

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
College of Education
Bureau of Educational Research Endowment
Hardie Strategic Initiatives Dissertation Support Award
2008-2009

Each year, the Bureau of Educational Research in the College of Education grants several dissertation awards on a competitive basis to graduate students to support the completion of their doctoral dissertations. These awards are funded through the generosity of the alumni and friends of the College. This information will help you to determine if you are eligible and how to apply.

A new group of dissertation awards being funded for 2008-2009 are the Hardie Strategic Initiatives Dissertation Support awards. Funding for these awards is provided through an endowment from Charles Dunn Hardie to support dissertations being prepared in areas related to the College of Education's 2007-2010 strategic initiatives:

- Center for Education in Small Urban Communities
- Initiative on STEM Teaching and Learning
- Ubiquitous Learning Institute: New Education Ecologies
- Forum on the Future of Public Education

Doctoral students are encouraged to apply for this new award or for the existing Dissertation Awards but cannot apply to both award categories. Please complete the attached cover sheet to indicate which Dissertation Award category is being applied for.

More information about the strategic plan and these initiatives can be found at <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/Future/strategicplan.html>.

We strongly encourage applicants to review examples of previously funded applications, which are available from the Bureau. We also advise applicants to have their faculty advisors carefully review the application before submitting it.

Eligibility

Applicants must be candidates for the doctoral degree in the College of Education. They must also be full-time in a graduate program. Applicants must document that they will have completed all pre-dissertation requirements (Early Research, Research Specialization, and Qualifying Exams) by the time of the submission, and must provide a clear and specific plan for completing the dissertation within a two-year time frame. Preference will be given to students who have passed their Preliminary Oral Exam. If students have not passed their preliminary oral exam, their advisor must address their progress in the accompanying letter of recommendation. Funds will not be released until the preliminary exam is completed.

Selection Process

Recipients of the dissertation awards are selected by the Hardie Endowment Research Awards Selection Committee, based upon submission of the following:

Letter of recommendation. A letter of recommendation should be from someone who is knowledgeable about the student's research interests, such as the student's advisor or dissertation director, and should specifically address the importance of the proposed study and the student's capacity to carry it out. If the student has not passed the preliminary exam, the advisor should assess progress toward that goal.

Curriculum Vitae. A curriculum vitae must be submitted from the applicant, which includes publications, presentations and awards.

Abstract. An abstract of 150 words or less must be submitted from the applicant.

Research Prospectus. A short research prospectus which describes the study needs to be included. Please keep in mind that some reviewers may not have expertise in your particular research area, so this section should be written for a general audience. The prospectus should include the following components: Research Problem, Significance of the Problem; Research Questions or Hypotheses, and Methods including population and sample, instrumentation, data collection and analysis, and procedures; and Justification for Methods. The research prospectus should be no more than 1500 words in length. Emphasis should be placed on clearly describing the research methods that will be used. It is important that the reviewers understand how the research questions are explicitly linked to and supported by the chosen research method(s). Conversely, the data analysis procedures should be linked back to the questions. Include a list of references to support the research prospectus (not included in the 1500-word limit). Copies of relevant instruments or protocols can be appended (not included in the word limit). Applicants wishing to be considered for a Hardie Strategic Initiative Dissertation Support Awards should specify this in their application materials and indicate the relationship of the proposed research to the strategic initiatives.

Work Plan. The work plan should specify what dissertation work will be accomplished during the award period. It should include realistic dates by which each stage will be completed. If the study is in progress, the proposal should clearly describe methods as implemented rather than methods planned, for example, actual samples obtained rather than samples planned.

Budget and Justification. The award is intended to finance only budget items associated with the completion of the dissertation. The budget should include a rationale for how all items are related to the completion of the project. Funding can cover such expenses as, for example, data gathering equipment, analytical software and training, primary source materials, travel and accommodations for fieldwork, duplicating, postage, modest stipends for subjects, and hourly pay to hire assistants for such tasks as transcription, translation, collecting or coding data, rating, and similar work. Funding cannot cover such expenses as computers, the applicant's personal salary, conference travel, and housing or living expenses. Funding can cover already-expended costs from the current fiscal year, or future expenses.

Criteria. Student applications will be judged in terms of the following evaluation criteria: importance to the field, methodological soundness, student's capacity to carry out the project, appropriateness of budget, and feasibility of work plan. Successful proposals will clearly state

the significance of the research for the field of education, broadly defined, and will clearly describe the study's methodology and implementation.

Award and Conditions

Dissertation awards will be granted two times per academic year. Recipients of the awards can receive a maximum of \$2,000 to support completion of their dissertation. The amount must be expended within a time limit of two years or graduation and in accordance with the work plan provided by the candidate.

Deadline

Deadline for applications is **Friday, March 6, 2009**. It is the student applicant's responsibility to see that all materials are received by the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please submit six collated copies and a CD-ROM of all materials to the Bureau of Educational Research, c/o Paige Spangler, 38 Education Building, MC-708. *If you need assistance preparing the CD-ROM please contact Paige Spangler as soon as possible.*

You may also access this information from our website, at <http://www.ed.uiuc.edu/ber/resward.html> under College Research Awards: Dissertation Funding.

COVER SHEET

**College of Education
College Research Committee**

**Traditional and Hardie Dissertation Award Competitions
2008-2009**

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____

Department _____

Faculty Advisor _____

Anticipated Year of Graduation_____

Have you passed the Preliminary Examination? Yes ___ No ___

Competition to which you are applying (Check **only** one):

Traditional Dissertation Award: ___

Hardie Dissertation Award: ___

II. CHECKLIST OF PROPOSAL ATTACHMENTS

Letter of Recommendation ___

Curriculum Vitae ___

Abstract ___

Research Prospectus ___

Budget and Budget Justification ___

Work Plan ___

III. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Have you previously applied to the College Research Committee for dissertation funding?

Yes ___ (Please answer A&B Below)

No ___

A. If Yes, which dissertation competition?

Traditional Dissertation Award ___

Hardie Dissertation Award___

B. In which year? _____