Texas State University System Foundation
Grow Your Own Program

Program Overview
The Texas State University System Foundation (Foundation) established the Grow Your Own Scholarship Program to increase faculty diversity and provide mentoring models for students in the eight universities and colleges that make up the Texas State University System. Through this program, individuals from groups underrepresented on the faculty receive financial assistance to complete their doctoral degrees. While completing the doctorate, the student usually will be given an opportunity to work or teach at the sponsoring Texas State University System component institution.

Once the individual completes his/her terminal degree, the successful applicant will be given priority for employment in a tenure-track position at the sponsoring institution or another TSUS institution in an appropriate discipline and department, based upon needs of the department and institution at that time.

This scholarship also provides the opportunity for these individuals to mentor college students from underrepresented populations and assist in retaining these students.

Guidelines and Criteria for Candidates
- The candidate must be nominated by the University or College President.
- The candidate must have at least one reference from a Texas State University System faculty member.
- The candidate must be a member of population underrepresented on the faculty of the host institution.
- The candidate should be a faculty member, student or staff member of the sponsoring institution, an educator in the community, or appropriately degreed professionals (e.g., CPAs, nurses, engineers, business leaders with appropriate credentials) who have a desire to become part of the university/college faculty.
- The candidate must have satisfactorily completed a baccalaureate and, preferably, a master’s degree.
- The candidate must submit a short essay (no longer than one-page, double-spaced) including:
  - The candidate’s connection and commitment to one of the Texas State University System institutions, and stated intention to serve on the faculty.
  - A description of the candidate’s interest in serving as a mentor for other persons from underrepresented groups on campus.
  - A statement of the candidate’s goals and reasons for pursuing the doctoral degree.
- The candidate must provide documentation of admission into an accredited doctoral program or already be enrolled in an accredited doctoral program in a content area or discipline offered by the sponsoring TSUS institution. It is not required that the student be enrolled at a TSUS institution for the doctoral degree,
only that the content area or discipline be available at the sponsoring TSUS institution.

- The Scholarship is available for the pursuit of only one doctoral degree.
- The candidate must be a U.S. citizen and a resident of the state of Texas.

**Scholarship Grants**

If selected for a scholarship award, the doctoral candidate will be reimbursed for permissible expenses up to a maximum of $50,000. The doctoral student must present an original receipt or bill to the Chief Financial Officer of the campus, showing evidence of payment. Permissible expenses include tuition, fees, textbooks and other required course materials. Living expenses are also included (rent, utilities) for costs incurred when the distance to commute for classes requires a residence at the doctoral institution - up to an annual maximum of $9,000 (which is counted in the $50,000 total). *Permissible expenses do NOT include late fees, deposits, food, transportation costs, telephone bills or other expenses.*

The Chief Financial Officer of the TSUS campus will retain the original receipts and bills, review the tuition and fee expenses and ensure that payment is made to the student for allowable expenses. The Foundation will reimburse the campus upon receipt of copies of the expenses and a request for reimbursement from the CFO.

The Foundation will not reimburse expenses incurred prior to the award of the scholarship.

**Academic Progress**

The doctoral student must submit to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs a transcript of the previous semester’s work or, following the completion of all required course work, documentation of progress made toward completion of the dissertation. The Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs periodically will review the academic progress of the doctoral student and will certify to the Foundation in writing that adequate advancement toward a doctoral degree is being made.

Should the Foundation Executive Director, together with the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs determine that a student is not making satisfactory progress, the student will be notified and no additional funds will be granted. If at any time a student’s GPA falls below 3.0 or the student receives a grade of “C” or below on their transcript, the scholarship will be terminated.

**Deadlines**

**System**

- Applications for the Grow Your Own Scholarship, with a letter of nomination from the President of the institution, are due in the Foundation office by *April 1st* each year. Applications submitted after the due date will be given consideration as long as sufficient scholarship funding is available.
- The Academic Progress Report will be addressed to the Executive Director of the Foundation and are due from the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs of
the nominating institution by **July 15th of each year** for the previous academic year.

**College or University**

Transcripts are due to the Provost/VP for Academic Affairs at the sponsoring institution by the beginning of the semester following the most recent classes taken. Following completion of all course work, a written statement by the student’s major professor addressing the student’s progress toward completion of the dissertation is due to the Provost/VP for Academic Affairs at the end of each semester.