

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL
DISSERTATION COMPLETION FELLOWSHIPS

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING APPLICATIONS

1. Evidence that completion of the dissertation will take place during the fellowship period or the summer immediately after. The cover page of the application must include a checklist and timetable for completing all doctoral-degree requirements. (See enclosed.)
2. Strength of the proposal submitted by the student. **All proposals must be written in language understandable to non-experts; jargon and overly specialized technical language must be avoided.** The proposal **must not exceed five typed pages, double-spaced** (exclusive of any references). Proposals must include a working title for the dissertation, the student's name, and academic program. The proposal must include the following labeled components:
 - a. **Abstract:** A one-paragraph abstract of the dissertation proposal written to be understood by educated lay readers who are likely untrained in the field of study and placed at the beginning of the proposal.
 - b. **Significance of the Research:** Describe the intellectual significance of the dissertation and its original contribution to the discipline. Provide an overview of the dissertation that describes the questions, problems, or ideas examined. Explain how the dissertation will enhance or challenge existing knowledge. If the dissertation project involves substantial collaborative work with others, the specific contributions of the student should be described.
 - c. **Methods and Work Plan:** Describe the methodology you will use in the project and justify its use in the dissertation. Describe what research has been conducted and what will be accomplished during the fellowship period. Clearly state when you will defend the dissertation.
 - d. **Access and Competence:** If the project requires access to specialized equipment, supplies, human or animal subjects, or research facilities provide assurances that the materials, etc. will be available to you; or if it requires competence in languages or methodology provide assurances of competence.
3. Evidence of applicant's past performance and potential as determined by:
 - a. Applicant's vita, to be enclosed.
 - b. Evaluation of applicant and project by the dissertation director.
 - c. Two enclosed letters of evaluation from faculty other than the dissertation director.
4. Financial need is not a criterion for these awards.