



# Instructions for AAGA Nominations

## College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Guidelines

### Intent of an Academic Achievement Graduate Assistantship (AAGA)

The AAGA is provided to assist in the recruitment of students whose enrollment will enhance the educational diversity of the student body of the graduate program into which they are admitted. In particular, the Graduate School's AAGA recruitment program is designed to assist graduate programs in attracting students who traditionally have not participated in the University's graduate programs.

### Eligibility Criteria

Students nominated for an AAGA must meet the following criteria.

- U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident
- Have been awarded a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution
- Accepted to a MSU graduate program
- May be an existing, enrolled graduate student

### Additional Evaluation Criteria

- Ability to enhance the educational diversity of the student body of the graduate program
- Personal history and experience of overcoming obstacles (such as social and/or educational disadvantages or economic/financial hardships)
- Come from an educational, cultural or geographical background that is underrepresented in graduate study in the discipline
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity in the academic, professional or civic realm through their work experience and volunteer efforts
- Leadership potential for diverse communities
- Demonstrated promotion of understanding among persons of different backgrounds and ideas

### Nomination Guidelines

- Nominate students who participated in Ronald McNair Achievement Program or Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP).
- Nominate students who attended or received their Bachelor's degree at a HBCU (Historically Black College or University), HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) or MSI (Minority Serving Institution) or small liberal arts college.
- Nominate students who have participated in a TRIO program (Upward Bound, Talent Search, Educational Opportunities Centers, Student Support Services).
- Nominate students who are the first generation of their family to graduate with a Bachelor's degree.

## Other Relevant Information

- The Graduate School provides the first year (two semesters) of funding.
- The department/school is **obligated** to provide funding for the duration of the student's program if the student is making satisfactory academic progress toward the degree.
- The Graduate School will provide the account number for unit to use to process the assistantship. The unit is responsible for processing appointment forms.

## Nomination Instructions

- Fill out the selection form completely.
  - FS19 SI = \$6772. SS20 SI = \$6772. US20SI = \$2448.
- Attach a letter of nomination (500-word minimum) from prospective advisor, graduate program coordinator or chair/director that addresses the evaluation criteria, especially leadership potential, understanding of diversity and overcoming barriers.
- Attach an explicit statement indicating the department/school's financial support of the student for the remaining years of the student's degree program if the student continues in "good standing" in the program.
- Attach an explicit statement indicating the department/school's commitment to mentoring and supporting the student with adjustments with respect to differences in culture, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic and educational background, etc.
- Attach a Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity statement (500-word minimum) that includes the following:
  - A demographic description of the department's graduate student body according to the categories identified by the MSU Office of Planning and Budgets (i.e., gender and racial/ethnic federal categories),
  - A brief overview of the issues and/or challenges related to diversity and inclusion in the graduate program,
  - A discussion of recent efforts to diversify the graduate student population, and
  - Any plans for future diversity and inclusion recruitment activities and initiatives.

## Nomination Deadline

- **Packets are due to CANR by February 1, 2019** for Fall 2019 admits. Packets will be reviewed by Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Graduate Associate Dean before being forwarded to the Graduate School by their deadline.
- Submit packets to Lisa Duffey as a single PDF file via the [canr.grad@anr.msu.edu](mailto:canr.grad@anr.msu.edu) e-mail address.