

# SUNY ESF

## Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program Scholarship Application

The Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program (GDFP) is designed to direct aid to graduate/professional students who have demonstrated academic achievement and overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Candidates will contribute to the diversity of the student body by demonstrating their commitment to facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in their academic programs and/or activities.

### Program Eligibility

***To participate in the GDFP, candidates are required to:***

1. Be U.S. citizens or have permanent resident status;
2. Demonstrate how they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education; and
3. Demonstrate a commitment to contributing to the diversity of the student body by facilitating and enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in their academic programs and/or campus activities.

Even though financial need is not a requirement for program eligibility, applicants may utilize economic disadvantage as a basis for eligibility.

***Preference will be given to candidates who are:***

From a low-income background (e.g., Pell-eligible as undergraduates), were first-generation college students (students whose parents have not earned a bachelor's degree), have overcome adversity, are AmeriCorps alumni, or are veterans.

*The Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program (GDFP) is open to any and all prospective candidates regardless of race, color, national origin, or sex, and is consistent with all current governing federal and state nondiscrimination law. All application submissions will be assessed and evaluated in accordance with the required eligibility criteria.*

**All campus distributions are pending annual state budget approval. While we have been awarding campuses scholarships for many years, funding may not be guaranteed every year.**

### ***Application Procedures:***

The application form and short essay should be completed and sent to: Katherina Searing, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, SUNY ESF, 227 Bray Hall – 1 Forestry Drive, Syracuse, NY, 13210-2787 or to [kbsearing@esf.edu](mailto:kbsearing@esf.edu). To be given full consideration completed applications must be received by May 15 for Fall semester and by November 1 for Spring semester.

# The Graduate Diversity Fellowship Program

## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Student Name:

Student ID (If applicable):

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

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### Citizenship Status (Required)

US Citizen: Yes [ ] No [ ] Permanent Resident: Yes [ ] No [ ]

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### ***Please check any of the preference criteria that may apply to you: (Optional)***

*Please also describe how each of the preference categories chosen below is applicable to you and your related experience thereof. (Required if any preference categories are selected)*

\_\_\_ From a low-income background: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Pell Eligible as undergraduate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ First generation college student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Have overcome adversity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ An AmeriCorps Alumni: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Veteran of the U.S. armed services: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Current SUNY student, alumni or fellows: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Short Essay: *In 600 words or less, please respond to the following essay prompt:*** (Required)

*“Please describe how you’ve engaged, facilitated, and/or enhanced diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts in your campus and/or local community. Examples could include personal, academic, and/or work experience and may include, but is not limited to, student’s potential to contribute to enhancing diversity efforts in their academic programs at SUNY and campus communities; experiences overcoming economic, social, educational disadvantages, and/or other barriers.”*