



Graduate Net Initiative

Successful Transition into Graduate School (STRINGS)

Call for Applications

The Graduate Net Initiative is now accepting applications for the first year of Successful Transition into Graduate School (STRINGS). This is a year-long cohort program focused on helping Hispanic, African American, Asian American (including South-East Asian), first-generation, and/or returning students transition successfully into graduate school.

STRINGS participants will benefit from a series of specialized resources to help new graduate students develop the academic, professional, and personal strategies proven to lead to graduate student success. Among others, offerings include

- a one-day orientation to the STRINGS program including cohort-building activities and an introduction to available resources and services for graduate students;
- monthly cohort meetings designed to strengthen a sense of belonging and hone communication and presentation skills;
- a year-long Workshop Series designed to help adopt practices leading to a successful graduate study experience;
- a support network including faculty and peer mentors; and
- additional activities geared to strengthen analytical writing skills, connections to faculty, and engagement with the campus community.

STRINGS, which is made possible by a U.S. Department of Education Title V Part B (PPOHA) grant, also offers \$500 in direct financial support.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible to participate in STRINGS, an applicant must

- be newly admitted into a Fresno State graduate program for the Fall 2016 semester;
- be a Hispanic, African American, Asian American (including South-East Asian), first-generation, and/or returning student (returning students are defined here as those with a lengthy break between undergraduate and graduate studies);
- be enrolled in his/her academic program for both Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters; and
- remain in good academic standing while a participant in STRINGS.

A student is not eligible to participate in STRINGS if he/she

- has been enrolled in a Fresno State graduate program prior to Fall 2016;

- is or has been a McNair Scholar; or
- has already received a graduate degree.

EXPECTATIONS

STRINGS participants will be required to

- attend the one-day STRINGS orientation scheduled for August 19, 2016;
- participate in eight monthly cohort meetings, to be held on the first Tuesday of the month during both the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters;
- participate in an additional four workshops throughout the 2016-2017 academic year, to be selected in consultation with the STRINGS mentor;
- regularly utilize the services of the Graduate Writing Studio and/or Writing Statistics Studio (as applicable);
- regularly meet with their STRINGS mentor and academic adviser or graduate coordinator; and
- participate in additional activities geared to strengthen analytical writing skills, connections to faculty, and engagement with the campus community.

Additionally, STRINGS participants will be strongly encouraged to

- build relationships with peers, faculty members, and community members both within and outside their discipline; and
- positively represent both the Initiative and Fresno State by following the Honor Code and other university policies (available at <http://www.fresnostate.edu/studentaffairs/division/general/studenthandbook/policies.html>).

AMOUNT OF AWARD

STRINGS participants will receive a total of \$500, to be disbursed in two payments (one in Fall 2016 and one in Spring 2017) made through the Financial Aid Office. Awardees who do not complete the required activities above will be required to return the disbursed amount to the Graduate Net Initiative.

PLEASE NOTE: The Financial Aid Office may factor the amount of this award into awardees' total financial aid packages, which may result in the reduction of other awards and/or loans. For further information, please contact the Financial Aid office at 559.278.2182.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Participants will be selected by a review committee which will include the Graduate Net Initiative's Project Director and other members of the Graduate Net Award Subcommittee. Selected participants will be notified as soon as possible, but no later than August 1, 2016.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants must **complete the online application, available at <http://bit.ly/STRINGSApP>**.

Please note that the application requires a 500-750 word response to the following question:

Why would you like to be part of STRINGS? In responding, make sure to address what concerns you about achieving success in graduate school and what aspect(s) of STRINGS you think will most benefit you.

Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, July 15, 2016. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Should you have questions about this program or other graduate funding opportunities, contact Andrea Cortes, from the Graduate Net Initiative, at (559) 278-1622 or via email at andreamc@csufresno.edu.