Community of Scholars Program

Program Description

Based in the Graduate School Diversity Office, the Community of Scholars Program (COSP) aims to create an institutional environment that supports the academic and professional success of graduate students who are historically underrepresented in academia. COSP assists students (U.S. citizens and permanent residents) to develop supportive relationships with advisors; build a sense of community; and pursue research, teaching and community engagement opportunities within and outside the Twin Cities area.

Summer Institute
Summer Institute provides seven weeks of research opportunity for newly-admitted graduate students. Priority is given to UMN fellowship recipients. In addition to conducting research, students attend seminars on issues pertinent to the graduate experience. Participants mentor junior high school students during spring semester of the first year.

Travel Grants
Grants of up to $1,000 per student are provided to support travel to conduct research or to present at a conference. All travel grant recipients participate in a fall research symposium to showcase their work to the University community.

Workshops and Forums
Several workshops and forums are scheduled throughout the academic year focusing on dissertation/thesis and grant writing, networking, and job search processes, to name a few topics.

Predoctoral Fellowship
Doctoral candidates can apply to teach one course per semester at the UMN Morris or Duluth campus while writing the dissertation. The fellowship appointment is for one academic year. COSP also partners with Augustana College (Rock Island, IL) and Ithaca College (NY) to offer similar fellowships.

grad.umn.edu/diversity/cosp
Mentoring
Students can request faculty mentors from within or outside the University as well as community leaders or individuals from industry to guide and support their career paths.

Individual Consultations
Consultation with the COSP director on academic, professional, and personal matters is available by appointment.

Adjunct Faculty Positions in the Midwest
COSP students can apply for adjunct faculty positions while completing their degrees. COSP collaborates with the following colleges to provide teaching opportunities: Augsburg College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, St. Catherine University, and St. Olaf College.

Writing Initiative
COSP provides writing support for all COSP students through individual consultations, writing groups, and retreats. Students can reserve the Scholars Den, the COSP space for writing.

Community Engagement
One major COSP component is providing participants an opportunity to serve as mentors and tutors at Twin Cities schools and youth-serving organizations. COSP participants encourage youth to finish high school and to attend college.

Twin Cities Multicultural Resources Directory
To connect students to off-campus resources and services, this directory can be viewed by primary community served or category.

About the Graduate School Diversity Office
Diversity is a driving force and necessary condition for academic excellence. The Graduate School Diversity Office (GSDO) coordinates and leads the University's initiatives in the recruitment, funding, retention and graduation of graduate students who are underrepresented in higher education. Our goal is to create a welcoming academic environment in which all graduate students are positioned to succeed in the advancement and creation of new knowledge.

Contact Us
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