



Dear Potential MFP Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) competition for the 2007-2008 academic year. Through the MFP the American Sociological Association (ASA) supports the development and training of minority sociologists focusing on research on the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders and drug abuse that are core areas of emphasis in the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) that provide support for this program. We will award four to five fellowships annually to students whose research interests are in the area of mental illness, mental disorders, or substance abuse. In addition, at least one additional ASA Minority Fellowship will be awarded each year to a student of color who has research interests *other than* mental illness, mental disorders, and substance abuse. These general MFP fellowships are funded by generous contributions from ASA members and various sister organizations (e.g., Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociologists for Women in Society, the Association of Black Sociologists, the Pacific Sociological Association, the Midwest Sociological Society, the Southwestern Sociological Association).

The MFP is primarily intended for minority graduate students who are PhD candidates and have demonstrated a strong record, interest, and commitment to research careers in the sociology of mental illness, mental disorders, or substance abuse. The ASA General Minority Fellowship is open to all sociology graduate students of color, including those earlier in their graduate careers. The annual stipend for NIMH fellows for 12 months of support is \$20,772 and the annual stipend for the non-NIMH is \$15,000. If an MFP Fellow is making productive and steady progress, and there are funds available, financial support may be extended for up to three years.

Enclosed please find the complete application package that contains the required materials for the completion and submission of the application, as well as general and detailed information about the MFP. For those potential applicants interested in the NIMH-supported fellowships, we encourage you to visit the NIMH and NIDA websites (<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/> and/or <http://www.nida.nih.gov/>). The websites provide valuable information about their training priorities and the types of research being funded. Undoubtedly, your application will be more competitive if your research interests are aligned with NIMH or NIDA priorities.

The Association's MFP program has been in existence for nearly 33 years, and former Fellows have made many important contributions to the field of sociology. Individuals selected as MFP Fellows are part of a great and important ASA tradition and part of an important family of research scholars. We look forward to reviewing your application and to having you, we hope, join the MFP family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sally Hillsman'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sally T. Hillsman, PhD  
Executive Officer

Enclosures

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**American Sociological Association  
Minority Fellowship Program  
General Application Guidelines**

**Introduction**

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is primarily intended for minority graduate students who have a strong interest in and commitment to a research career in the sociology of mental health, mental disorders, or substance abuse. The MFP is funded by a research-training grant to the American Sociological Association from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA). ASA will award 4-5 fellowships annually.

In addition to the NIMH supported fellowships, at least one ASA fellowship will be awarded to minority students whose research interests are outside the sociology of mental illness, mental disorders, or substance abuse (General Sociology Fellowship). For these fellowships, no specific specialty area is stipulated.

**General Guidelines**

The following guidelines are **extremely important**. Please read them carefully.

1. Advanced graduate students are encouraged to apply. We expect that those interested in an NIMH fellowship to have a proven record of research and interest in the sociology of mental illness, mental disorders or substance abuse. Applicants to the General Sociology Fellowship can be more junior graduate students (i.e., in the first two years of graduate school) or more advanced students.
2. MFP Fellows are selected on the basis of their commitment to research and a research career in mental illness, mental disorders and substance abuse (for NIMH fellowships), as well as (for all applicants) academic achievement, scholarship, writing ability, research potential, financial need, and racial/ethnic minority background.
3. MFP-NIMH applicants must be in a **sociology department** that has a strong program of research and/or faculty members who are currently engaged in grant-supported research that focuses on mental illness, mental disorders, related co-morbidities, or substance abuse. Faculty who are or have been funded by NIMH should be identified, and provide evidence of their commitment as a mentor to the applicant. This must be reflected in your application package.
4. Your recommenders should write about your academic work, scholarship, writing ability, research interests, research potential, and commitment to your area of expertise (i.e., the sociology of mental illness, mental disorders or substance abuse for NIMH applicants). Your letters of recommendation should be returned to you in a **sealed envelope** to be **INCLUDED IN YOUR** application package.
5. For the NIMH fellowship applicants, one of the three letters of recommendation should come from your mentor. We require that they include their curriculum vitae or their most current NIH Biographical Sketch along with the letter.
6. Your application package must include **official transcripts** from all the undergraduate and graduate institutions that you have been enrolled in. Transcripts included in your application package must be sealed and stamped "official transcripts." However, some universities will not provide official transcripts to students. If this is the case, transcripts must then be sent directly to our office. Transcripts marked "**student copy**" are **not acceptable**.

7. All application materials must be submitted to our office in one (1) package. A complete application package consists of:
  - A. Fellowship application
  - B. Essay/s
  - C. Three (3) letters of recommendation - one of which should be from your mentor along with their curriculum vitae or, for NIH-applicants, their NIH Biographical Sketch
  - D. Transcript/s
  - E. Other supporting documents (Optional) (e.g., curriculum vitae or resume, research papers published or presented at professional conferences, GRE scores, etc.).
8. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that all required materials (including letters of recommendation and transcripts) are submitted to our office. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
9. The application deadline for the MFP is a postmark of January 31. Applications postmarked after the January 31st deadline will not be considered.
10. Awards will be announced by April 30.

For further information please call or write to:

American Sociological Association  
Minority Fellowship Program  
1307 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005-4701  
(202) 383-9005, ext. 322

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ASA Home Page: <http://www.asanet.org>