Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program

MMUF aims to achieve its mission by identifying and supporting students of great promise and helping them become scholars of the highest distinction.

Who is Eligible to Apply to Emory’s MMUF Program?

1. Rising Juniors with a preferred minimum GPA of 3.2.
2. Study in one of the many designated fields or disciplines.
3. Demonstrate a commitment to the goal of increasing the presence of African Americans, Hispanics/Latinxs, and Native Americans in the academy.
4. Express serious interest in pursuing graduate studies leading to a Ph.D. in one of the humanities or a select group of disciplines in the sciences and social sciences.

How to Apply?

1. Contact Emory’s MMUF Coordinators for more information:

   **Coordinator:** Dr. Dianne Stewart  
   Associate Professor, African American Studies/Religion  
   404.727.8671  
   dstewa4@emory.edu

   **Co-Coordinator:** Dr. María M. Carrión  
   Professor, Comparative Literature/Religion  
   404.727.6348 (no voicemail messages)  
   mcarrio@emory.edu

   **Program Coordinator/Administrative Staff:**  
   Ms. Rhoda Sanders  
   Program Coordinator  
   African American Studies  
   rgsande@emory.edu

2. Applications will be available on the “Apply” page of website. Please visit our website for important deadlines of the application.

Disciplinary Areas

- Anthropology/Archaeology
- Area/Cultural/Ethnic/Gender Studies
- Art History
- Classics
- Geography and Population Studies
- English
- Film/Cinema/Media Studies (theoretical focus)
- Musicology & Ethnomusicology
- Foreign Languages and Literatures
- History
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Performance Studies (theoretical focus)
- Philosophy and Political Theory
- Religion and Theology
- Sociology
- Theater (non-performance focus)

*Other fields that employ historical and philosophical methods may also be eligible. Please contact Dr. Dianne Stewart, coordinator of Emory’s MMUF program, if your field is not listed.

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program

207 Candler Library
(404) 727-6847
aas.emory.edu
mellonmays.emory.edu
Who is Benjamin E. Mays?

Benjamin Elijah Mays was born in 1895 in South Carolina and graduated from Bates College in Maine in 1920. He attended the University of Chicago for his masters and doctorate degrees. He taught at Morehouse College and at South Carolina State College. From 1934 to 1940, he served as Dean of Howard University’s School of Religion and then became the President of Morehouse College. He also served his community, becoming the first black president of the Atlanta school board. Among his books were the first sociological study of African-American religion, *The Negro’s Church*, *The Negro’s God*, *Disturbed about Man*, and his autobiography, *Born to Rebel*.

Emory MMUF Expectations

1. Attend the MMUF Summer Institute held for the entire month of June.
2. Attend monthly meetings with coordinators and graduate mentors.
3. Attend regular semester advisory meetings with mentor, coordinators, and graduate student mentors.
4. Attend annual regional conferences and deliver research presentations (SERC and Emory’s MMUF Research Conference).
5. Uphold professional standards of collegiality and academic citizenship.
6. Update Annual MMUF Profile at the National Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program website.
7. Fellows who enroll in Ph.D. programs no later than 39 months after receiving the B.A. are eligible for the Loan Forgiveness program.
8. Opportunity to learn about and participate in additional, affiliate undergraduate programs, for example:

Institute for Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) Summer Workshop and Association Program
Moore Undergraduate Research Assistant Program (MURAP)

Benefits

1. Receive stipend of $3600 per academic year ($1800 per semester) for conducting and producing a research project.
2. Receive up to $3900 of summer funding toward research project development.
3. Receive up to $600 toward GRE prep.
4. Receive ongoing mentoring, research support, and professional guidance from faculty members, coordinators, and graduate students.
5. Receive up to $600 per academic year to support scholarly conference attendance with MMUF mentor.
6. Receive up to $400 of supplementary funds for senior year research.

MMUF Program Statistics at a Glance as of 2019:

- Total of selected MMUF students: Over 5,000
- MMUF PhDs: Over 800
- MMUF tenured faculty members: Over 120

MMUF History

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation was established as a nonprofit philanthropic organization in June of 1969 with a mission to “aid and promote such religious, charitable, scientific, literary, and educational purposes as may be in the furtherance of the public welfare or tend to promote the well-doing or well-being of mankind.” In 1988, under this broad charter, the Foundation made a long-term commitment to help remedy the serious shortage of faculty of color in higher education through the Mellon Minority Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program. The fundamental objective of the MMUF is to increase the number of minority students, and others committed to diversity in higher education, who will pursue Ph.Ds in core fields in the arts and sciences. The program aims to reduce over time the serious underrepresentation on the faculties of American colleges and universities of individuals from certain minority groups, as well as to address the attendant educational consequences of these disparities. The current program director is Dr. Armando Bengochea. The MMUF program now has a membership of 54 American colleges and universities, plus the 39 UNCF member institutions and three South African universities.

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