

Letter From the Director of Graduate Studies in Sociology



Dr. Lori Latrice Martin

Director

Graduate Studies

Associate Professor

Sociology, African & African American

Welcome to the Spring 2018 issue of DuBois Courier. The newsletter is named in honor of one of the most important sociologists in the late 19th century and much of the 20th century. His work on race, crime, and religion continue to impact sociology and other disciplines.

Here we are at the start of another semester. Welcome back graduate faculty and students!

Great things are happening in the PhD Program in the Department of Sociology. Faculty and students are publishing in peer-reviewed journals, authoring books, writing successful grant proposals, presenting at national conferences, teaching undergraduate courses, and serving the university, community, and discipline in important ways.

The Graduate Committee begins reviewing applications for the newest cohort this semester. The committee also plans to welcome several applicants to our Open House. The event is an opportunity for prospective students to learn more about our program and for us to tell show them why joining our program is the best decision they can possibly make on this leg of their academic journey.

Enjoy the latest issue of *DuBois Courier*!

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CHAIR'S CORNER

Department Chair – Yoshinori Kamo

Professor, Sociology



Welcome back! I hope your winter break was productive, rewarding, and/or refreshing. I also hope you are excited about going back to the classes, exams, projects, and of course, theses/empirical papers or dissertations.

The department started its Open House for prospective students four years ago. As we plan to do so again this year, I ask existing students to help out the Graduate Committee in welcoming your future fellow students. Continuous input from good students are the bloodline of our program, as you know.

I would like to talk about your research planning this time.

When I was on the job market (yes, it was a LONG time ago), I had seven publications. Three of those are sole-authored (term paper, MA thesis, and stand-alone paper), but the remaining four were with co-authors; my advisor, post-doc, and fellow graduate students.

There is a limit to what you can do yourself; this is true not only in business and sports, but also in academia. Fortunately, LSU Sociology faculty have a long history of collaborations involving graduate students. While you should take advantage of it, I feel that there are two distinct ways to collaborate with faculty members; push and pull, analogous to the concepts in immigration research.

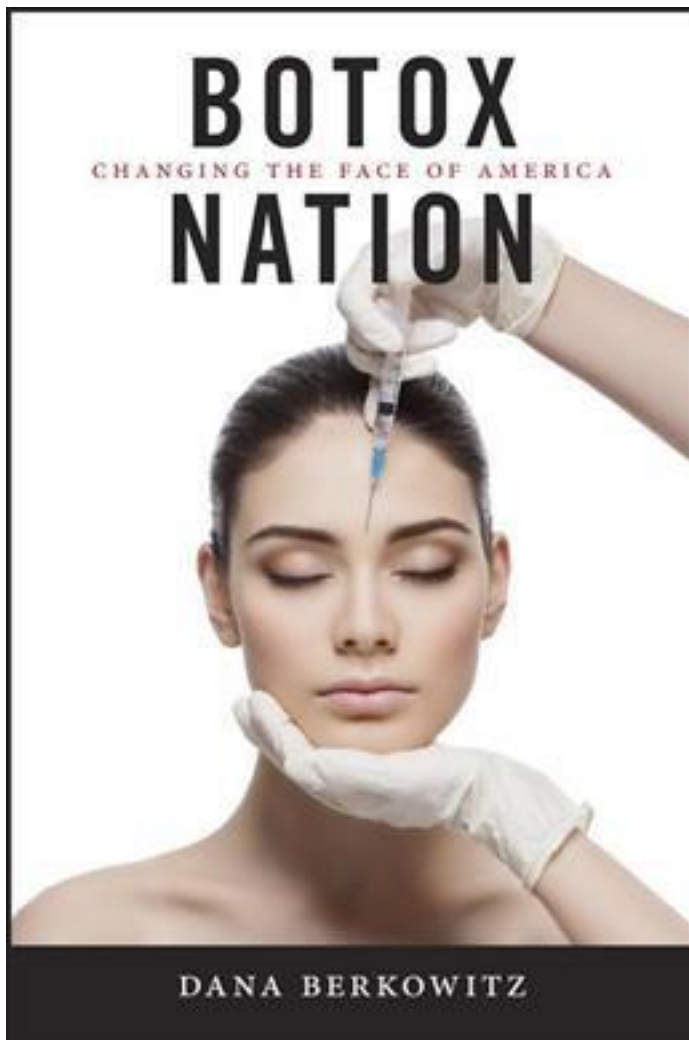
You often have your own ideas of research (to be culminated in term papers, theses/empirical papers, and/or dissertations), and you can “push” these ideas to faculty members and/or your fellow students. In these cases, you should be a senior author. On the other hand, our productive faculty members often need help from their potential co-authors in literature review, cleaning data, actual analysis, and/or conceptual discussion. In cases like this, you are “pulled” into their research projects, probably as a junior author.

I have some words of advice on the authorship, though. BEFORE starting collaboration, make sure to discuss the order of the authorship. Knowing that you are the senior or junior author is critical since you should allocate your time wisely working on multiple papers and projects. What’s the best way to avoid unfair authorships? Write two papers with the same collaborator and split the authorship.

Some faculty members like to “pull” students, and others like to be “pushed.” This may be due to their academic life stages or research style. Either way, you will learn a lot from working with faculty members. For most students, thus, co-authored papers are quick ways to get publications (though it’s not the only way).

I hope you take advantage of our collaboration “tradition,” and will have a productive career here at LSU!

Geaux, Tigers!



Congratulations, Dr. Dana Berkowitz! Her book, *Botox Nation*, was selected by *NPR* as a Great Read for 2017.

Fifteen years ago, almost no one had heard of Botox. Then the FDA approved using botulinum toxin to temporarily smooth wrinkles, and today, millions of Americans get injections each year. It has become as routine as getting your hair colored. But why are we so freaked out by aging? Berkowitz unpacks the anti-aging industry in ways that will make you think.

— recommended by [Marilyn Geewax](#), editor, Business Desk

GRADUATE STUDIES

SOCIOLOGY FACULTY

Michael S. Barton (PhD, Albany)

Criminology, Urban Sociology

Sarah Becker (PhD, Massachusetts)

Communities and Crime, Ethnography

Qualitative Methods

Dana Berkowitz (PhD, Florida)

Gender, Bodies and Embodiment,

Sexualities, Families

Troy C. Blanchard (PhD, LSU)

*Associate Dean of College of Humanities and
Social Sciences*

Social Demography, Stratification,

Community, Religion

Chantel Chauvin (PhD, LSU)

Violent Crime, Delinquency, Gender and
Crime

Skylar Gremillion (PhD, LSU)

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Gender, Law, Inequality, Online

Communications

Yoshinori Kamo (PhD, Washington)

Department Chair

Inequality, Family, Comparative

Rhiannon A. Kroeger (PhD, Ohio State)

Families and Health, Family Formation,

Social Demography

Matthew R. Lee (PhD, LSU)

*Vice Provost for Academic Programs & Support
Services*

Criminology, Health, Race/Ethnicity

Lori L. Martin (PhD, Albany)

Race and Ethnicity, Demography,

Inequality

Michelle A. Meyer (PhD, Colorado State)

Disaster, Environment, Community, Social
Stratification

Heather O'Connell (PhD, University of
Wisconsin)

Race, Ethnicity, and Demography

Robert O'Neil (PhD, LSU)

Social Interaction, Theory, Sex and Gender

Heather M. Rackin (PhD, Duke)

Population, Medical Sociology, Family

Mark J. Schafer (PhD, Indiana)

Education, Social Development, Rural

Sociology, Social Change

Edward S. Shihadeh (PhD, Penn. State)

Race and Ethnicity, Criminology, Urban

Ecology

Wesley M. Shrum, Jr. (PhD, Princeton)

Science & Technology Studies, Africa,

Internet & Cell Phones, Video Ethnography

Tim Slack (PhD, Penn. State)

Stratification, Demography

Ginger Stevenson (PhD, LSU)

Criminology, Interpersonal Violence,

Deviance

Samuel Stroope (PhD, Baylor)

Health, Research Methods,

Culture/Religion

Jose Torres (PhD, Virginia Tech)

Criminology, Social Control, Policing

Matthew A. Valasik (PhD, UC Irvine)

Criminology, Gangs, Spatial Analysis

Mark H. Walker (PhD, Iowa)

Social Psychology, Social Networks, Self

and Identity

Frederick D. Weil (PhD, Harvard)

Community, Social Capital, Political

Sociology, Comparative-Historical

FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Wes Shrum



Dr. Wes Shrum joined the Department of Sociology in 1982. Dr. Shrum's primary interest has been the sociology of science and technology, particularly in the developing world. Since the early 1990s, he has been examining communication networks, in particular the role of the Internet in African and Asian science. Dr. Shrum focuses mainly on Kenya, Ghana, and Kerala (southwestern India). Recently, he's been working hard on the changes wrought by the introduction of mobile phones in Africa. Dr. Shrum's preferred methodology is video ethnography, developed together with a group of students in our department. Dr. Shrum recently co-authored the book, *Video Ethnography In Practice: Planning, Shooting, and Editing for Social Analysis*. He is also the Director of *Ethnografilm Paris*.

Ethnografilm Paris is a Director's festival for nonfiction film. They provide a forum for filmmakers to interact. All documentary forms are invited, including short films, student films, and academic films. Following the main festival in Paris, France, April 3-7, 2018, a selection of films will travel to our smaller festivals in India, Kenya, Ghana, Sydney, and New Orleans during summer and fall of 2018.

The venue is located at the highest point of Paris, in the historic district of Montmartre, famous for the birth of modern art and avant-garde cinema. Owned by the French director Claude Lelouch, *Ciné 13* sits next to the windmill immortalized by Van Gogh and Renoir. It is undoubtedly the finest fringe theatre on planet earth. Seating is provided for one hundred people, mostly on couches. Four levels will be wallpapered with original artwork based on screen shots from films at the 2018 festival. These will be given to their directors on site.

Admission is free. Attendees are invited to come and go as they please for four days, with free food and wine. Typically, one hundred films are shown, from over three dozen countries.

GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

We have about 50 graduate students from all over the country and outside the United States. Our current and past foreign students are from Turkey, Taiwan, Japan, China, Kenya, and the Philippines, among others. Each "cohort" consists of 5-13 students and most of our students are funded as Teaching Assistants or Research Assistants.

Our Ph.D alumni are, again, all over the world. Most of them are teaching in colleges and universities, but others are in research institutions, governmental agencies, or private industries.

Our graduate program is primarily designed for producing PhDs, rather than terminal MAs. Applications and supporting materials for all graduate study (including three letters of recommendation) must be submitted through the online application site for the LSU Graduate School.

Admission

The Department generally requires an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or a graduate GPA of 3.5 for admission. Admission and funding is normally for the Fall Term. Applicants desiring financial support should submit credentials by the end of January. Even students who are admitted without funding, however, may be considered for assistantships as resources become available.

Graduate Assistantships

The Department offers a number of graduate assistantships to qualified students. They involve research or teaching under the supervision of one or more faculty members. For those without funding, but from an under-represented group, we have tuition awards (exemptions) available.

The Graduate School offers a number of fellowships and scholarships to exceptional and superior students. Among these are Enrichment Funds for incoming students, Graduate School Dissertation Fellowships, Huel D. Perkins Diversity Fellowships, and Board of Regents Graduate Fellowships. Upon receiving promising candidates, the Director of Graduate Studies will make nominations for these awards.

Graduate Assistants and other fellowship recipients are exempt from tuition but still have to pay university fees. Graduate Assistants and fellowship recipients are also eligible for the premium assistance program for Student Health Insurance.

GRADUATE PROGRAM OVERVIEW **Cont.**

The MA Program

Our MA Program requires two years of graduate study and is expected to lead onward to the PhD. Minimum course requirements are 36 hours of graduate work. Students may be permitted to transfer up to twelve hours of coursework at the graduate level from another institution.

After satisfying coursework requirements, a master's degree is conferred upon completion of either an empirical research paper or a master's thesis, to be defended before the student's MA committee.

The PhD Program

The PhD program in sociology is designed to prepare students for a career in sociology that combines research and teaching. A broad general knowledge of sociological theory and research methodology is required. Students will also choose and develop a research program in a specialty area.

Our students typically develop a close working relationship with one or more faculty members and co-author research papers with them. In this way, the student begins as an apprentice and finishes with a substantial research record.

Minimum course requirements for PhD are 54 hours of graduate work. Students finish all course work, then take the General Exam, write and defend their dissertation proposals, and write and defend their PhD dissertations.

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE

J. Carlee Purdum



J. Carlee Purdum is a doctoral candidate and research assistant in the Department of Sociology. She recently won a grant to begin interviewing corrections officials and emergency management officials involved in the response efforts for Hurricane Irma in the state of Georgia. The Quick Response Grant program through the Natural Hazards Center at University Colorado Boulder gives grants to support the collection of perishable data in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Carlee’s dissertation is entitled, “Inmates in Disaster.” Her ongoing research projects include a paper co-authored with Dr. Michelle Meyer and a number of graduate students entitled, “Perspectives from Nonprofit Organizations on Education and Training Needs for Disaster Recovery.”

Reflections on the Ethnographic Film Festival

By Jahaan Chander, Doctoral Student

One of the perks of being a graduate student in the department of Sociology at LSU is that you are afforded unique opportunities that can provide experiences that are truly fulfilling. In the spring of 2017, I was fortunate enough to take advantage of one of those opportunities. A short film that I directed and produced as an assignment for Dr. Wesley Shrum's video ethnography course was accepted into the annual *Ethnografilm Festival* in Paris, France. With the help of a generous travel grant from the LSU graduate school, I was able to fly to Paris and present my film at the festival, an experience that I will never forget.

Paris is one of the most beautiful cities that I have ever had the pleasure of visiting. Like most tourists, I visited the Eifel Tower, Notre Dame, the Louvre, and other common tourist attractions but honestly, the entire city is something to experience. Walking through the Parisian streets felt like walking through the pages of a well-written romance novel. One can feel the history and personality of the city ebbing from every street corner. While exploring Paris, I was able to meet Middle Eastern migrants, eccentric street artists, and other interesting groups of people that enriched and broadened my perspective with their uniquely Parisian modalities and ways of thinking.

The film festival was packed with its own diverse group of scholars, filmmakers, and artists. After watching a film, I got to chat with the filmmakers and get their take on their projects. Like most of us, I've seen plenty of movies at the theatre, but I had never seen my own work on the big screen. Watching my work on the big movie screen was probably one of the most memorable and fulfilling experiences that I have ever had in my life and it's something I will probably never forget.

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

7121 Seminar: Classical Sociological Theory (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. Historical survey of sociology with primary emphasis on European (Marx, Weber, and Durkheim) and early American (Mead and Park) sociologists.

7131 Seminar: Contemporary Sociological Theory (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 7121 or equivalent. Current theoretical arguments in sociology.

7201 Research Methods in Sociology (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 2201 or equivalent. Introduction to inferential methods in sociological research; emphasis on interpretation and current research.

7203 Advanced Research Methods in Social Science (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 7201 or equivalent. Also offered as POLI 7963. Survey of advanced methodology in the social sciences; emphasis on general linear model and causal models.

7211 Seminar: Methods of Social Investigation (3)

Prereq.: EXST 7003 or equivalent. Research methods in the social sciences; interplay of theory and methods of research; formulation of research problems and design; measurement and scaling; sampling; ethics in research; and critiques of social science research.

7213 Specialized Topics in Social Science Methods (2-3)

Prereq.: SOCL 7203 or POLI 7963 or equivalent. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. of credit when topics vary. Also offered as POLI 7964.

7351 Seminar: Topics in Rural Sociology (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in rural sociology.

7391 Seminar: Topics in Social Organization (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social organization.

7491 Seminar: Topics in Social Institutions (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 12 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social institutions.

7591 Seminar: Topics in Social Issues (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social issues.

7691 Seminar: Topics in Social Interaction (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 9 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in social interaction.

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION **Cont.**

7791 Seminar: Topics in Population and Ecology (3)

Prereq.: consent of instructor. May be taken for a max. of 6 sem. hrs. credit if topics vary. Specialized areas in population and ecology.

7901, 7902 Independent Reading and Research (3,3)

Prereq.: successful completion of at least one year of graduate work.

7903 Proseminar in Sociology (1)

Required twice of both master's and Ph.D. candidates. Pass-fail grading. Contemporary research and critical issues in sociology.

8000 Thesis Research (1-12 per sem.)

"S"/"U" grading.

8900 Research in Sociology (1-6)

Open only to students engaged in a specific, organized research project under faculty supervision. Student must be engaged in design and implementation of research and analysis and interpretation of data.

9000 Dissertation Research (1-12 per sem.)

"S"/"U" grading.

PHD GRADUATES SINCE 1985 WITH MOST RECENT PLACEMENTS

2017 Dari Green, LSU; Luke Castle; Castell Sweet, University of Dayton; Emily Blosser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette;

2016 Joe Cleary; Win Guan, LSU Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Melinda Jackson, Nicholls State University; Matthew LeBlanc, Xavier University; Ya-Feng Lin, South Texas College; Danielle Thomas, SportQuest Ministries

2015 Will Bryerton, Lone Star College; Michael Cope, Brigham Young University; Kayla Fontenot, U.S. Census Bureau; Durmus Ali Yuksek, Turkish Military Academy

2014 Brett Lehman, Auburn University; Ashley Perry, Mississippi State University

2013 Donovan Ceaser, California State University, East Bay; Chantel Chauvin, Louisiana State University; Skylar Gremillion, Louisiana State University; David Maddox, Bellarmine University; Le'Brian Patrick, Xavier University; Sarah Walsh, The Policy & Research Group

2012 Candice Myers, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; Lisa Winters, Coastal Carolina University

2011 Raymond Barranco, Mississippi State University; Jessica Doucet, Francis Marion University; Aaryn Ward, Pearl River Community College

2010 Emily Berthelot, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Tim Brown, University of Arkansas-Little Rock; Julia D'Antonio, Loyola University; Makiko Hori, University of Tennessee-Chatanooga; Jessica Pearce, South Louisiana Community College

2009 Anna Cutlip, Pfeiffer University; Lacie Michel, Louisiana Tech; Paige Miller, University of Wisconsin-River Falls; Claire Norris, Xavier University; Shaun Thomas, University of Arkansas

2008 Michael G. Bisciglia, Southeastern Louisiana University; Chiung-Yin (Joy) Hu; Mark O. Melder, Louisiana Tech; Matthew Wilkinson, Coastal Carolina University

2007 Russell R. Davis, University of West Alabama; Richard B. Duque, University of Vienna; Chanika R. Jones, Southern University

2006 Amanda Abraham, Institute for Behavior Research at the University of Georgia; Timothy C. Hayes, University of North Carolina-Pembroke; Asha D. Luthra, Shell Exploration and Production Co.; Monisa Shackelford Mooney, Pensacola Junior College; Marcus Ynalvez, Texas A&M International University

2005 Theresa Davidson, Samford University; Amy Manning Kirk, Sam Houston State University

2004 Susana Guerra, Tracfone Wireless, Inc.; Jospeter Mbuba, Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

2003 Carl Marie Riden, Longwood University; Ginger Stevenson, Louisiana State University

2002 Catherine Elizabeth Burton, The Citadel; Patricia Campion, Tennessee Tech University; M. Kelly James, Winthrop University; Chizuko Wakabayashi, University of Niigata Prefecture

2001 Troy Christoph Blanchard, Louisiana State University; Alison K. Neustrom, Public Affairs Research Council; Robert Paul O'Neil, Louisiana State University; Melissa Oliver Stainback; Linda Anderson Tobin, Austin Community College

PHD GRADUATES SINCE 1985 WITH MOST RECENT PLACEMENTS **Cont.**

2000 Rebecca (Carter) Powers, East Carolina University; William Craig Carter, Middle Tennessee State University; Shirley A. Keeton, Fayetteville State University; Michelle Marie Livermore, Louisiana State University; Rebel Mary Reavis, University of Tennessee-Martin; Marsha Norton West; George Preston Wooddell, University of Louisiana-Lafayette

1999 Stephen Edgar Costanza, Central Connecticut State University; Matthew Raleigh Lee, Louisiana State University

1998 Kiyomi Ando, Meijo University, Japan; Ivan Mihailov Chompalov, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania; Vaughn Allen Decoster, University of Arkansas; Nicole Thomson Flynn, University of South Alabama; Jo Kuhn Galle; Michael Owen Maume, University of North Carolina-Wilmington; Tobias Albert Ten Eyck, Michigan State University

1997 Yanyi Kasongo Djamba, Auburn University at Montgomery; Deborah Marie Hanrahan; Graham Christophe Ousey, College of William and Mary

1996 Kuo Hua Chen, Tamkang University, Taiwan; Deann K. Gauthier, University of Louisiana-Lafayette; Mary Lynn Gautier, Georgetown University; John Collins Kilburn, Texas A&M International University; San-Yi Li, Providence University (Taiwan); Esther J. Olinde; Dawood Hussein Sultan, University of Tennessee-Martin

1995 Carl Leon Bankston III, Tulane University; David Emile Maurer, University of New Orleans; James Adu Opare, University of Cape Coast

1994 Frederick Carson Mencken, Baylor University; Neller Ree Simpkins

1993 Alphonse Rubagumya

1992 Diane Catalano Keithly, Southern University; Jianghong Li, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

1991 Larry Allen Gould, Northern Arizona University; Joan Marie Morris, University of Central Florida; Roberta Loupe St. Pierre, Louisiana State University

1989 Ann C. (Dellenbarger) Ziebarth, University of Minnesota; Oiseozoje Godwin Ohiwerei, New Jersey City University; James William Robinson, Louisiana State University-Eunice

1988 Jeffrey Michael Clair, University of Alabama-Birmingham; Gloria R. Martinez, University of the Philippines Los Baños; Carol Yvette Thompson, Texas Christian University

1987 E Clark Forrest Jr; Bethania Maria Gonzalez; James Francis Quinn, University of North Texas; Cheryl L. Thayer-Doyle

1986 Ollie Collden Christian, Southern University; Leroy Allen Furr, University of Louisville; Robert Earl Sanderson, University of Arkansas-Little Rock

1985 Carol Sue Campbell, McNeese State University; Pamela Jean Jenkins, University of New Orleans

HOW TO APPLY

Domestic Degree-Seeking

A domestic degree-seeking applicant is one who wants to complete a graduate program at the Masters, Doctoral, Educational Specialist, or Certificate level and is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. Both the Graduate School and the department applied to must approve admission.

Step 1: Select a Graduate Program

LSU offers more than 120 graduate degree programs, more than 10 graduate certificates, and some programs can be completed online.

Step 2: Review Department Admission Requirements

Review the [department's website](#) to view its admission deadlines and requirements.

Step 3: Review Graduate School Admission Requirements

All applicants must have the following in order to be considered for unconditional admission:

- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited U.S. institution or the equivalent from a foreign institution.
- A grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.00 (A = 4.0) on all undergraduate work (or in the final 64 credit hours) and any graduate work already completed.
- Acceptable GRE score.

Step 4: Draft and Gather Additional Application Materials

Step 5: Send GRE Scores

Send official GRE scores to the Graduate School using the ETS institution code **6373**.

Step 6: Upload and Request Transcripts

Step 7: Fill Out and Submit Application

There are a limited number of application fee waivers on a first-come, first-serve basis to applicants who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and who belong to under-represented groups or who hold active or veteran military status. Applicants affiliated with the following programs should fill out the waiver request form and supply a signed letter of support from the program director: Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC), McNair Scholars, Project 1000, Post Baccalaureate Research and Education Programs (PREP), GEM Fellowship Program, and Initiatives for Maximizing Student Diversity (IMSD).

The [Fee Waiver Request form](#) should be submitted online. Application fee waivers cannot be requested for late applications.

CONTACT US

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