**Nutrition Doctoral Student Funding and Work for Pay**

Students admitted to the Nutrition PhD program will have a guarantee of funding for 2 years, to include tuition, fees, health insurance and a stipend at the annual level of NIH traineeship stipend, signed by their faculty advisor. After the second year, advisors will make every effort to ensure that student funding needs are met by directly providing funds as a graduate research assistant, or in helping the student obtain independent funding through scholarships, fellowships, or other sources. Through these mechanisms, students who are progressing satisfactorily though the program have the support needed to complete the PhD. While the goal of the Department is to provide comparable levels of support for all students, the exact level of may vary by funding source.

All commitments and expectations regarding funding should be clearly written into the funding letter that the advisor writes to the student with the offer to recommend admission to the program.

The Nutrition Department has two National Institutes of Health (NIH) T32 grants for predoctoral training which help support several students each year. One training grant focuses on transdisciplinary nutrition across the full scope of the department and the other focuses on global cardiometabolic disease. Grants provide tuition and fees, a stipend, and health insurance. These NIH traineeships, open only to U.S. citizens or permanent residents, are awarded on a competitive basis and require sponsorship by a faculty member. Applications are invited annually by the training grant program directors from students admitted to the PhD program.

The Department encourages students to apply for external fellowships through the NIH F31 program or other individual fellowship programs as potential funding sources as well as valuable professional development. Students will prepare a F31 application as part of their required work in NUTR 880.

Nutrition Department faculty direct a large number of research grants across all areas of nutrition and may support student research assistantships.

Students who conduct their research at the NRI receive an additional, annual financial bonus (currently $5000) to support the expenses that might be incurred due to their geographic distance from main campus. A free daily shuttle, equipped with WiFi and A/C, provides transport to the main campus as needed; however, participation in most if not all courses and seminars is available via Zoom, and NRI has extensive telecom services. The cost of living in the NRI area is generally lower than for main campus, and students have priority access to newly remodeled housing that includes private rooms with en suite facilities, all within walking distance of the NRI. The NRI also features its own café, exercise facility, student lounge, free parking, and daily interaction with >100 investigators in the nutritional sciences.

UNC Graduate School resources related to student funding can be found at: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/funding/>

Some additional funding opportunities include:

## The Gillings School of Global Public Health

Some merit-based or other scholarships are offered by the Gillings School of Global Public Health to entering PhD students on a competitive basis. Recommendations of students for these funding opportunities are made through the Nutrition Department Doctoral Committee.

## The Graduate School

Merit assistantships and other scholarships are offered to entering doctoral students on a competitive basis. The Department’s Doctoral Committee applies for these on behalf of the student.

## The University

Students may apply for financial assistance from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid. The Grant Source Library offers a free computerized search service to UNC graduate students. The database includes private and public sources of research funding that can be searched by the student's area of research interest or by discipline of investigator. Some agencies provide training support only, some dissertation support only and some both training and dissertation support. Students should be aware that the deadline for applying for many of these grants might precede the funding date by as long as a year. See website at: <http://fundingportal.unc.edu/>

**The Agency for Health Care Quality** (AHRQ) supports dissertation research in the area of health service delivery. Applications may be obtained from Chief, Review and Mentory Services (Dissertations), NCHSR, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18A-20, Rockville, MD 20857, (301) 443-3091.

Students working population health may be eligible for traineeships from the **Carolina Population Center**. Faculty sponsorship is necessary. Further information and application materials can be found at: <https://www.cpc.unc.edu/training/>

**National Institute of General Medical Sciences** (NIGMS) supports individual dissertation research. Website: <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/>

**Ford Foundation Predoctoral and Dissertation Fellowships for Minorities** supports research in the behavioral and social sciences. <https://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fordfellowships/index.htm>

Other sources of predoctoral funding include:

The National Science Foundation: <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding>

UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center <https://unclineberger.org/training/>

American Heart Association predoctoral fellowships: <https://professional.heart.org/en/research-programs/application-information/predoctoral-fellowship>

**Doctoral Student Work Policy**

In unique circumstances, doctoral students may have the opportunity to work on substantial research, program, or clinical projects outside of the dissertation research as an opportunity to obtain additional research experience. Substantial means that the work merits additional pay and effort. It is expected that such participation would expand the student’s training experience and result in a scholarly product. The experience for pay needs to be clearly justified relative to a) its contribution to the student’s career goals as reflected in the students’ Individual Development Plan (IDP), and b) as not delaying the dissertation research and preferably strongly supporting the dissertation development.

Such opportunities may involve payment above the NIH stipend, which necessitates formal approval by the student’s advisor and the Doctoral Committee. For students funded by a T32 fellowship, approval is also needed from the T32 program director. The primary goal of the approval phase is to determine whether or not the additional work involves scholarly activity that will further the training of the student and will not impede the students’ progress toward the completion of dissertation research. A formal request must come from the student with the details of the work and the faculty mentor must sign to indicate their approval of the plan. Students may obtain this formal request form from the Academic Coordinator.