

Davidson College Research Program Supported by the Duke Endowment

The Duke Endowment recently granted Davidson College a total of \$750,000 to support annually a wide range of opportunities for student-faculty collaborative research. In addition to supporting the college's on-going Faculty Study and Research budget, the following three new programs were made possible by the Grant:

Davidson College Summer Research Program

The Davidson College Summer Research Program will enable Davidson College to offer a premier summer research experience for students across the campus. Beginning in the summer of 2007, a maximum of twenty Davidson students will be chosen to participate in the program. The goals of this program are to:

1. foster collaborative student-faculty research in **all** of the liberal arts disciplines;
2. establish a vibrant campus-wide community of undergraduate research during the summer months by offering activities such as topical group discussions, lectures, and social functions.

Any Davidson student may apply to the program when they are first-years, sophomores or juniors. The student should first identify a member of the Davidson faculty who will be available to serve as a mentor for his or her summer research project. Any current full-time member may serve as a mentor in this program. Additionally, Emeriti faculty and visiting faculty who are returning in the fall semester may also serve as faculty mentors.

The student, in consultation with his or her faculty mentor, will submit a research proposal and other application materials to the Program Director by January 22, 2007. The proposal must be written by the student and should include the following sections:

- Research Plan - A detailed description of the proposed project and a proposed timetable for the completion of the project¹;
- Justification for the Research - A discussion of the unique and original nature of the research;
- Definition of the Mentoring Relationship - A description of the nature and duration of the interactions between the mentor and student throughout the research experience (i.e., how often will interactions occur, how much supervision will be involved);
- Budget – A list of items and their estimated costs (where applicable);
- Dissemination Plan – A list of possible avenues where the results of the research will be shared, i.e., poster presentations and/or publication plans.

¹ Typically a summer research project will involve ten weeks of work on-campus. There may be instances, however, when a student and the faculty mentor may plan for shorter projects, perhaps 4-5 weeks in duration, or where the student may need to spend time off-campus to complete the research.

Other application materials should include the following:

- A letter of support from the faculty mentor, including assurance that the Research Plan and Justification for the Research sections were written by the student;
- A copy of the student's transcript;
- Two letters of recommendation from persons other than the faculty mentor.

Following receipt, the applications will be reviewed by the Program Director, the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA), and the Faculty, Study and Research Committee. The final selection of awardees will be made by the Program Director, in consultation with the VPAA. Davidson College Summer Research Fellowships will be awarded, based on merit of the proposal and not quota, by mid-February.

Students selected as Davidson College Summer Research Fellows will receive a stipend of \$480/week for a maximum of 10 weeks, a housing allowance of \$1,200, and \$1,000 for supplies and travel. Faculty mentors will receive a stipend commensurate with the degree of mentoring necessary for the proposed project, with a maximum stipend of \$3500.

Fellows and their faculty mentors will be expected to participate in some group activities during the summer and to share their research outcomes in a poster session during the fall semester. Some group activities will be for all students, regardless of program, who are doing research on campus during the summer. Other group activities will focus only on the Davidson College Summer Research Fellows and their mentors. The fall semester poster session will include any summer research students, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Summer Research Fellows and research students supported by other funding sources.

In addition to the on-campus symposium, Davidson College Summer Research Program participants will be encouraged to present the results of their work at regional or national meetings within their discipline and to publish the results of their summer work, when possible.

The program will be assessed annually using standard pre- and post-assessment tools and by tracking participants and outcomes.

Inclusion of students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU)

One unique aspect of the Davidson College Summer Research Program is the opportunity to include as many as five students from HBCUs, such as Johnson C. Smith University, in the Program. Faculty who would like to include a student from an HBCU in their summer research plan should indicate their interest in the application materials submitted to the Program Director by January 22, 2007. A description of the project that the HBCU student would be involved in should be included. The Program Director and/or the faculty mentor will then contact local HBCUs to publicize the available research opportunities.

If a HBCU student indicates interest, he or she must submit application materials (form, transcript, and letters) to be reviewed by the faculty mentor and the Program Director. If the faculty mentor accepts the HBCU student, he or she will be invited to participate under the same conditions as outlined above for the Davidson student participants.

Davidson College Off-campus Group Investigations Program

The Davidson College Off-campus Group Investigations Program provides funds for off-campus trips in courses which are exploring questions that would benefit from a trip to a museum, field site, or other off-campus location during a semester break or the summer. Trips during the semester may be considered, but must be approved first by the Educational Policy Committee. Any regular course, seminar, or small group course that would be enhanced by such an experience will be considered. In addition, “not for credit” student trips led by faculty may also be considered.

Faculty members may submit a proposal for an off-campus group investigation to the program director by April 1 for Fall Semester courses and September 15 for Spring Semester courses. The proposal should contain the pedagogical goals of the investigation, a detailed description of itinerary and activities, number of students traveling, a detailed budget (not to exceed \$15,000), and plans to evaluate the outcome of the course. All participants will be expected to make an on-campus presentation following the experience and any publications or dissemination of the work must be reported to the program director. Applications will be reviewed by the Program Director, the VPAA, and the department chair.

Davidson College Faculty Development Program

In order to keep faculty at all levels active in research with undergraduates, the Davidson College Faculty Development Program will allow faculty to apply for a course release (with eligibility every four years) if they are:

1. Mid-career faculty who are embarking on a new research program, or taking a new direction with their current research program.

Mid-career faculty may apply for a course load reduction any time after their second year post-tenure. Interested faculty will submit a proposal to be reviewed by the Program Director, the VPAA, and the chair of their department. The proposal should include: a justification for the course load reduction; a description of activities that will occur during the release time; and, expected outcomes (or measures of success) of those activities (e.g., grant submitted, paper written, etc.).

2. Faculty applying for a competitive, external research grant, which includes collaborative research with undergraduates, may apply for a course release in a semester during the time period when the grant will be active, if funded.

Application for this course load reduction must be made six weeks before the deadline for the grant proposal submission and after consultation with the departmental chair and the VPAA. The application should include: a summary of the proposed research; a justification for the course load reduction; and, the expected outcome of the proposed research. The request for the course load reduction will be considered by the program director and VPAA, in consultation with the department chair. Any approval of the request for course load reduction will be contingent on obtaining the grant.