

§ 263.6 What is the time period for a fellowship award?

(a) The Secretary awards a fellowship for a period of time not exceeding—

- (1) Four academic years for an undergraduate or doctorate degree; and
- (2) Two academic years for a master's degree.

(b) With prior approval from the Secretary, summer school may be allowed for eligible continuation students after completion of the first academic year.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7833)

Subpart B—How Does the Secretary Select Fellows?**§ 263.20 What priority is given to certain applicants?**

The Secretary awards not more than 10 percent of the fellowships, on a priority basis, to persons receiving training in guidance counseling with a specialty in the area of alcohol and substance abuse counseling and education.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7833)

§ 263.21 What should the fellowship application contain?

In addition to the requirements specified in § 263.22 of this part, an applicant shall provide evidence that—

(a) The applicant is Indian as defined in § 263.3 of this part. Evidence may be in the form of—

- (i)(i) A copy of the applicant's documentation of tribal enrollment or membership; or
- (ii) A copy of the parent's or grandparent's documentation of tribal enrollment or membership, with supporting birth certificates or similar documents showing the applicant's descent from the enrolled member;

(2) A letter of certification on official letterhead with the appropriate signature from a Federally or State recognized tribe or band; or

(3) A certificate of degree of Indian blood (CDIB) issued by an authorized representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or an official of a Federally recognized tribe.

(b)(1) The applicant is currently in attendance or has been accepted for admission as a full-time student at an accredited institution of higher education in one of the eligible fields of study listed in § 263.4; or

(2) For an applicant who has not yet been accepted for admission, documentation that the applicant is accepted by an accredited institution of higher education by a date to be specified by the Secretary.

(c)(1) The most current official high school and, if appropriate,

undergraduate transcripts, for undergraduate applicants; or

(2) The most current official undergraduate and, if appropriate, graduate transcripts, for graduate applicants.

(d) The certification required under 34 CFR 75.61.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7833; 20 U.S.C. 1221e-3(a)(1) and 3474).

§ 263.22 How does the Secretary evaluate applications?

(a) The Secretary reviews and ranks an application with other applications for the same field and related fields of study.

(b) The following criteria, with the total number of points available in parenthesis, are used to evaluate an application for a new fellowship award:

(1) *Official academic record (60 points)*. The Secretary considers the quality of the applicant's academic record by reviewing—

(i) The applicant's grade point average and, if applicable, standardized test scores, such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), American College Testing Assessment Program (ACT), Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), and achievement tests.

(ii) The applicant's official transcripts and any grade reports.

(2) *Letters of recommendation (15 points)*. The Secretary considers the applicant's potential for success in completing the academic requirements for his or her field of study by reviewing one letter of recommendation from each of the following categories—

(i) A school principal, teacher, academic or non-academic instructor or counselor, a college professor, or academic advisor;

(ii) A member of the community or civic leader who has observed the applicant in educational, social or civic activities; and

(iii) A tribal representative or an Indian community member.

(3) *Commitment essay (25 points)*. The Secretary considers the applicant's commitment by reviewing an essay, written by the applicant, that addresses—

(i) The applicant's career goals and why the chosen field of study will benefit Indian people;

(ii) The applicant's life experiences, and personal and family expectations that will enhance the applicant's anticipated career accomplishments; and

(iii) The applicant's anticipated commitment to providing service to Indian people.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7833)

Subpart C—What Conditions Must be Met by Fellows?**§ 263.30 What are the basic requirements of a Fellow?**

A Fellow shall—

(a) Start school during the first semester of the award at the institution named on the grant award document and complete at least one full academic term;

(b) Submit to the Secretary two copies of his or her official grade report at the close of each academic term, and upon completion of the training program, at that institution;

(c) Submit an annual continuation application, in the form and timeframes specified by the Secretary, to request funding for each remaining academic year approved under the initial application;

(d) Request a written leave of absence at least 30 days prior to withdrawal, unless in an emergency situation, from the Secretary for any interruption in his or her program of academic studies; and

(e) Sign an agreement, at the time of the award, with the Department to meet the provisions of the payback requirement.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7833)

§ 263.31 What information must be submitted after a fellowship is awarded?

To verify further the accuracy of the information provided in the application, the applicant shall provide all information and documents as requested by the Secretary, including information on other financial aid sources for educational purposes. The applicant's failure to provide the requested information and documents invalidates the application and the Secretary will not consider it for funding.

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(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 7833)

§ 263.32 What are the requirements for a leave of absence?

(a) The Secretary may approve a leave of absence, for a period not longer than one academic year, provided a Fellow has successfully completed at least one academic year.

(b) A written request for a leave of absence shall be submitted to the