

Department of Sociology
Research Opportunity Funding Program for Doctoral Students

The research opportunity funding program described below is in effect for Academic Year 2009-2010.

1. **Travel Funds** ~ \$2,000 in travel funds will be made available to each doctoral student during their academic career. This funding is restricted for travel to meetings at which the student will present a paper. Expenses will be reimbursed (information about University policies related to travel reimbursement is located in Admin Guide 36.7 http://adminguide.stanford.edu/36_7.pdf). *Note: All doctoral students are requested to present at two conferences as part of the degree program.*
2. **Computer Funds** ~ \$1,250 in computer funds will be made available to each doctoral student during their academic career. This funding may be applied towards the purchase of no more than 2 computers. (Students who purchased computers with discretionary funds prior to the implementation of the SRO program are eligible for \$700 in funding towards the purchase of 1 new computer.) Proof of purchase will be required before a stipend is issued.

New PhD students may purchase a computer during the summer just prior to beginning the doctoral program. The stipend for this purchase will not be issued until the beginning of Fall Quarter when the student has formally matriculated and enrolled in units.

3. **Sociology Research Opportunity (SRO) Grants** ~ SRO funding is competitive and awarded to support dissertation research. These funds are intended to supplement, not replace, GRO (Graduate Research Opportunity), VPGE, NSF dissertation improvement grants, and other research awards that students may obtain. All students are expected to actively seek out and apply for alternative dissertation research funding.

GRO Funds: Information on the GRO and application guidelines is available at http://www.stanford.edu/dept/humsci/external/grad/financialaid_fellowships.html. Students may apply for up to \$5,000.

VPGE Funds: If your dissertation is on a diversity-related topic, you may apply for up to \$5,000 in dissertation research funds from VPGE. Information is available at <http://vpge.stanford.edu/diversity/support.html>.

NSF Dissertation Improvement Grants: Sociology deadlines are October 15 and February 15 (deadlines for Law and Society and other areas vary, so please check NSF's website). Students may apply for up to \$10,000 in funding. <http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/soc/socck11.jsp>.

It is expected that prior to applying for SRO funds, students have:

- Successfully defended their prospectus

- Applied for GRO and (if applicable) VPGE funds ~ Applications may be concurrent to the SRO application; SRO funding decisions will be delayed until GRO/VPGE funding decisions have been announced.
- Students in Year 5 and Year 6 must have applied for an NSF dissertation improvement grant or have an application in progress.

Students are eligible to receive no more than two SRO grants during their academic career. Students who are in year 7 or 8 are generally not eligible to receive SRO funds, but may seek an exception.

Applicants will be required to submit a cover sheet, proposal request, a detailed budget, and advisor recommendation (this may be in the form of an email from your advisor to Susan Weersing). Information about application requirements and eligible expenses is available on the SRO application form.

Proposals will be solicited and funding decisions will be made twice per year, once in the Fall and again in the Spring. Unless otherwise stated, deadlines for applications will be the same as GRO application deadlines.

4. **Research Funds for 2nd Year Paper** ~ Because SRO funding specifically targets dissertation projects, limited funds have been set aside for students who entered the program in Fall 2008 to assist with expenses associated with their 2nd year paper. To apply for these funds, students should complete the standard SRO application and note that this is for a 2nd-year paper project.

Please note that students on leave are not eligible to receive any type of research funding.