

## **SPHHP Tuition Scholarships to Promote Student Diversity**

(Final Draft 12/10/2009)

The School of Public Health and Health Professions (SPHHP) using a cost sharing arrangement with each department, offers tuition scholarships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study, who will pursue such study and be enrolled on a full-time basis, and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the graduate or professional program in which they will be enrolled. The maximum number of tuition scholarships awarded annually is dependent on available funding. Scholarships awards are limited to a maximum of three years, but annual renewals are subject to annual review.

**Eligibility:** Eligible students apply directly to their home department. The home department may submit up to two student nominees per year to the SPHHP Dean's office for award consideration.

To be eligible for consideration, nominees for support must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a U.S. Citizen, Permanent Resident, or Non-immigrant in legal status. Scholarship eligibility for International Students may also be dependent on the individual's visa status and any related terms or limitations.
2. Be accepted in a UB-SPHHP graduate degree program or a professional degree program at the graduate level.
3. Have met all minimum entrance requirements for their home department.
4. Be able to satisfy the diversity criteria for the program as described below.

**Diversity Criteria:** The scholarship tuition program is designed to assist SPHHP departments in the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students in doctoral and master's level programs who can demonstrate that they would contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education. Such categorical circumstances may include academic, vocational, social, disability or economic impediments or disadvantaged status<sup>1</sup> that students, as evidenced by their previous academic performance, have been able to overcome. Also relevant are other characteristics that constitute categorical underrepresentation in their particular graduate program such as gender or racial/ethnic status. Note that in awarding such tuition scholarships, full consideration is given to students who are of a race or ethnicity that is historically underrepresented in graduate and professional programs at UB<sup>2</sup>; however, SPHHP does not make awards based solely on racial/ethnic status.

### **Criteria considerations:**

<sup>1</sup>Academic, vocational and social impediments could include a first generation student applying to a graduate degree program or a professional degree program at the graduate level. Such cases could include: an individual neither of whose natural or adoptive parents has received a bachelor's degree, or a student

that prior to the age of 18, regularly resided with and received support from only one natural or adoptive parent and whose supporting parents did not receive a bachelor's degree. Economically disadvantaged could include a lower income individual, who, according to the U.S. Department of Education, is an individual whose taxable income did not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level amount in the calendar year in which the individual initially applies. The poverty level amount is determined using the criteria of poverty established by the Bureau of the Census of the United States Department of Commerce. An individual with a disability means a person who has registered with UB's Office of Disability Services (ODS) and has documentation from that office.

<sup>2</sup>Historically underrepresented students in higher education include African American, Latino and Native American

### **Application Procedures**

Each Department may nominate up to two students per year for these awards. This submission should include a testimonial from the student that was either submitted as part of their application materials, or separately solicited, which contains statements supporting the basis for this diversity tuition scholarship. The program director or department Chair must write a brief letter, again stating how this student meets the diversity criteria as described above, and commits to providing scholarship funds that equal or exceed the award given by the Dean's office. The Dean or his designee will determine which student(s) will receive the SPHHP tuition scholarships.

Fall semester applications must be received by the Dean's office by February 15, and decisions will be made by March 1. Spring semester applications must be received by the Dean's office by December 15, and decisions will be made by January 1.