



GRADUATE DEANS GROUP

OPPORTUNITY ON A GRAND SCALE

BIG
ACADEMIC ALLIANCE

About Graduate Deans Group

As a trusted peer network, the graduate deans share knowledge, benchmark policies and data, and act collaboratively to further their universities' graduate education missions. For over 35 years, this community has fostered pipeline programs aimed at increasing the number of underrepresented minority graduate students and faculty candidates. With a focus on multi-institutional and systemic change, they have partnered with organizations such as National Science Foundation, National Institutes for Health, and the Mellon Foundation.

UG

Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP)

- Get hands-on **experience**
- **Explore** areas of interest
- **Boost** academic and research skills
- **One application** used for all Big Ten schools
- **Work 1-on-1** with a faculty mentor from top-ranked research institutions



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Graduate Discovery Program

Resources for students exploring graduate education such as:

- **Self-paced modules** so you learn on your own schedule
- Big Ten experts cover topics such as:
 - **Crafting your application**
 - **Social identity and search**
 - **Evaluating the offer**

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FreeApp

Prospective students can request a graduate application fee waiver for Ph.D. or Master of Fine Arts programs at participating Big Ten universities. FreeApp is for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in graduate education.

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Traveling Scholar Program

- Enables doctoral students to spend up to a full academic year at another member university without additional tuition and fees
- Traveling Scholars can take courses, access unique collections, and work with specialized equipment
- 50 doctoral student participants annually

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Smithsonian Fellowship

The Big Ten Academic Alliance and the Smithsonian Institution invite fellowship applications for one-year fellowships to support research in residence at Smithsonian Institution facilities.

- Open to graduate students
- Offer stipends of up to \$42,000
- Opportunities for fellowships in all fields actively pursued within Smithsonian Institution museums and research organization

CP

Communities of Practice

Staff from the Big Ten graduate colleges are members of consortial communities of practice covering a broad scope of functional areas, ranging from admissions to interdisciplinary programs. Eight self-managed groups engage in benchmarking, share best practices, and, when needs align, co-create mutually beneficial resources.

MELLON PROGRAM FOR A DIVERSE PROFESSORIATE

- Supports summer research experiences and seminars on graduate study hosted at Big Ten universities
- Enhances opportunities to compete for tenure-track appointments in the humanities, humanistic and social sciences, and the arts
- Creates opportunities for graduate students to visit ACM colleges and present research in programs that anticipate hiring in near future

\$8.1M



ANDREW A. MELLON FOUNDATION AWARD

TO INCREASE GRADUATE STUDENT DIVERSITY IN ARTS, HUMANITIES, & HUMANISTIC SOCIAL SCIENCES

NSF PROFESSORIAL ADVANCEMENT INITIATIVE

Increased URM Faculty in STEM

Surpassing the grant objective of doubling the rate of hiring underrepresented minority faculty

Postdoc Mentorship

Including workshops on grant writing, applying for academic positions, mentoring and community building

Inclusive Hiring Training

Providing anti-bias training resources for search committees

National Postdoc Directory

Hosting a publicly available database of traditionally under-represented postdocs seeking tenure-track faculty positions



“Through their National Science Foundation Professorial Advancement Initiative (PAI), the Big Ten graduate deans provide national leadership and resources for diversifying the Academy. Post-doctoral scholars are supported in their professional development and job search goals, and search committees have access to a national pool of postdoc candidates from underrepresented populations in the Big Ten Academic Alliance PAI Directory, as well as implicit bias training. We currently jointly sponsor postdoc professional development programs to provide a rich portfolio across all our institutions.”

Linda Mason
Dean, Graduate School
PURDUE UNIVERSITY



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GRADUATE EDUCATION
PEER & PROGRAM
COMMUNITIES

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SMITHSONIAN
INSTITUTE
FELLOWS



The Big Ten Academic Alliance is the academic consortium of the world-class research universities in the Big Ten Conference and the University of Chicago. By casting our collective futures together, we can fulfill our missions and meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Core Member Groups

- Provosts
- Chief Information Officers
- Deans of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Graduate Deans
- Senior International Officers
- Procurement Directors
- University Librarians
- Vice Provosts for Faculty Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-NEW BRUNSWICK

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

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