

Grant Title: INITIATIVE FOR MAXIMIZING STUDENT DEVELOPMENT (IMSD) (R25)

Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-13-082. CFDA Number(s): 93.859.

Agency/Department: National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

Area of Research: Increase the number of students from groups underrepresented in the biomedical and behavioral sciences that complete the Ph.D. degree in these fields at institutions with research intensive environments.

Release and Expiration: Release Date: January 10, 2013. Expiration Date: March 15, 2013.

Application Deadline: March 14, 2013.

Amount: The total amount to be awarded is approximately \$5 million (total costs) per year for new and renewal applications.

Length of Support: Up to 5 years.

Eligible Applicants: Public and State controlled institutions of higher education. See the full announcement for a complete list of eligible applicants.

Summary: The purpose of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) Program is to develop the pool of a diverse group of highly trained undergraduate and graduate students who go on to research careers and will be available to participate in NIH-funded research. The program provides institutional grants to research-intensive institutions that propose well-integrated developmental activities designed to increase students' academic preparation and skills that are critical to the completion of the Ph.D. degree in biomedical and behavioral sciences. At the institutional level, the IMSD program should: (a) increase the pool of students from underrepresented backgrounds that complete a Ph.D. and continue biomedical research careers; (b) send a majority of the undergraduate IMSD participants directly to Ph.D. programs; (c) enable most if not all Ph.D. students participating in the IMSD program to complete the degree; (d) contribute to ongoing student and faculty efforts to reduce the gap in the completion of Ph.D. degrees between underrepresented students and those from other backgrounds in participating departments; and (e) increase institutional involvement in outreach efforts toward underrepresented. To accomplish these objectives, the design of the proposed institutional programs should be derived from an institutional self assessment of the (a) research environment; (b) student and faculty demographics; (c) number of students that complete the Ph.D. degree; and (d) challenges/impediments that the students encounter in completing the Ph.D. degree. As a result of the self-assessment, each applicant must establish the program's goals and specific measurable objectives. Various strategies may be utilized to attain the objective of increasing the pool of underrepresented researchers via the IMSD program. These may include the initiation of new academic developmental activities as well as the expansion, enhancement and/or improvement of existing activities. Some institutions may opt to offer programs to improve preparation of undergraduate students for admission to research doctoral degree programs. Others may concentrate on training graduate students to obtain their doctoral degrees and prepare for successful research careers and still others may concentrate on both. Each IMSD program is strongly encouraged to develop a partnership with NIH-funded T32 training program(s). Program directors are expected to characterize intended and actualized improvements to training experiences for the general student population that originate in or are inspired by the implementation of the IMSD Program. The IMSD program can provide support for student academic development activities that are designed to improve scientific critical thinking and quantitative skills, communication skills, time-management, group learning opportunities, independent library or bench research skills, interdisciplinary or advanced research-based courses and opportunities to meet and discuss career choices with appropriate role models. The proposed research education program may complement other ongoing training programs but the proposed educational program must be distinct from those training and education programs currently receiving federal support.

Detailed Information: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-13-082.html>