POTUS Fellowship

Preparing Our Tomorrow Uniquely in STEM (POTUS) is a grant funded program through the United States Department of Education. The POTUS Fellowship program emphasizes preparation, matriculation, and the successful completion of doctoral and master's students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) disciplines at TSU. Through POTUS, the university addresses the global need to increase African American representation in STEM disciplines at the graduate level. The Fellowship is available to students majoring in the following multidisciplinary disciplines:

- Biological Sciences
- Engineering
- Agricultural Sciences
- Physical Therapy (Doctoral level only)
- Occupational Therapy (Master's level only)
- Chemistry (Master's level only)

Title III Organization

Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 is a federally funded program designed to support Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

Through Title III funds, Tennessee State University supports more than 35 graduate assistantships annually, including POTUS Fellows, either through monthly stipends and/or free tuition.

Contact Information

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About TSU:

Tennessee State University (TSU) is committed to excellence and has been consistently listed in the U.S. News & World Report’s “Guide to America’s Best Colleges” for more than a decade. Founded in 1912, TSU is a comprehensive, urban, co-educational, land-grant institution in Nashville, Tennessee.

As a leading institution of higher learning, TSU provides students with the opportunity to experience academic and personal growth. The university offers multiple bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, and doctorate degrees. Students receive instruction from top-notch faculty and are immersed in research, service learning, and student life activities, including internships, cultural and study abroad opportunities.

Fellowship Eligibility

POTUS Fellowships are for students seeking their master’s/doctoral degree at Tennessee State University in the following STEM disciplines:

- Biological Sciences
- Engineering
- Agricultural Sciences
- Physical Therapy (Doctoral level only)
- Occupational Therapy (Master's level only)
- Chemistry (Master's level only)

Program requirements include:

- Unconditional admission to the academic program
- African American
- United States citizen
- Full-time enrollment
- Maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average (GPA)
- Attend 3 academic enrichment and professional development seminars per semester
- Attend monthly POTUS meetings
- Complete 2 scholarly works per year
- Complete 8 hours of community service per year related to one's academic discipline
- Work 20 hours per week as a Teaching and/or Research Assistant

Fellows (doctoral level) and Scholars (master's level) are paired with a faculty member in their discipline to conduct research as a research assistant and/or work as a teaching assistant.

The Fellowship benefits include:

- Full tuition (Fall, Spring, Summer; for doctoral fellows only)
- A monthly stipend ($3,000/month for doctoral fellows & $2,600/month for master's scholars)
- Travel to professional conferences
- Research supplies
- Faculty and peer engagement
- Professional development
- Increased academic enrichment
- Faculty mentoring

*Total estimated value is $50,000/year for doctoral fellows.

**Total estimated value is $35,200/year for master's scholars.

Monthly stipends are paid directly to POTUS Fellows and Scholars, however, all other funds are applied to their university accounts.

POTUS Fellows and Scholars are held to a high level of expectation to perform beyond the minimum to ensure their place among the leaders of tomorrow.