Diversity Student Support Program
The Dissertation-Year Fellowship Program is one component of the University of California Diversity Student Support Program. This program is designed to facilitate the academic career development of students who show potential to become excellent faculty or researchers in institutions of higher education as well as to foster multi-faceted diversity in graduate education at UC. To maintain academic excellence, the University places high value on achieving a diverse graduate student body and faculty because diversity is critical to promoting the lively intellectual exchange and the variety of ideas and perspectives that are essential to advanced research and because graduate students represent the pool of the academic leaders of the future.

Dissertation-Year Fellowship
The Dissertation-Year Fellowship Program (DYFP) is designed to assist graduate students to complete the dissertation requirement for the Ph.D. degree and to enhance their qualifications as candidates for university faculty teaching and research appointments. It is recommended that Dissertation-Year Fellowships be awarded to eligible graduate students whose doctoral work will be completed by the end of the program year and who demonstrate strong potential for university teaching and research. Dissertation-Year Fellowships are awarded competitively by the campus Graduate Divisions.

Key objectives of the Dissertation-Year Fellowship component of the DSSP include releasing candidates who are writing their dissertations from employment obligations that might impede full concentration on completion of the Ph.D. degree by the end of the academic year. Enhancing these scholars’ ability to complete their dissertations is expected to increase the pool of available qualified candidates for faculty positions at the University of California and other institutions of higher education.

Dissertation-Year Fellowship awards may, at campus option, include travel funding to support visits to other universities for presentation of dissertation research. Dissertation-Year Fellows are required to present a seminar on their dissertation research twice during the program year: once at an appropriate department or graduate group function on their own campus and once at a UC campus other than their own, a California State University campus, or an independent California university. It is the responsibility of the graduate divisions to make clear that presentation of research during the program year is a condition of accepting this fellowship. Mentors should be responsible for assisting in the arrangement of such presentations. Additional mentoring and networking opportunities for Dissertation-Year Fellowship recipients are strongly encouraged. It is recommended that Fellows appointed to this Program be expected to complete the Ph.D. degree at the end of the academic year for which they are appointed.