

# The Gerontology Early Career Development Award

## The Doctoral Program in Gerontology

The Universities of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) and Baltimore County (UMBC)

Developing a cadre of independent scholars in gerontology is essential to the growing need for aging research. Gerontology doctoral students early in their academic careers bring fresh ideas to existing research problems and initiate new areas of investigation.

The Gerontology Early Career Development Award, funded through a generous donation, fosters early academic productivity in aging research. This prestigious award recognizes excellence in the student's academic work and in research, which serves as the foundation for becoming an independent scholar in the field of gerontology.

The fund provides merit-based awards to students in the Doctoral Program in Gerontology, and supports dissertation research awards, travel to professional conferences, or experiential learning opportunities. Awards ranging from \$500-\$1500 are given each year to one or more applicants.

### **Applicant Criteria:**

1. Applicants must be in their 2nd year of doctoral studies or beyond and enrolled (part-time or full time) during the spring or fall terms.
2. Applicants must also be in good academic standing, according to the Doctoral Program in Gerontology's most recent annual review.
3. Award decisions are based on student's application, GPA, a CV, statement of career goals, plans for use of award funds, and one letter of recommendation.
4. The award amount will be based on the justification for use of the award funds and the number of applicants in a given year.
5. The funds must be used while enrolled in the program.

### **Application Materials:**

Applicants should submit the following electronically:

1. Curriculum vitae (CV)
2. An application not to exceed 4 pages describing current and/or completed work in aging research, career goals, how the award funds will be used and how they will contribute to your independent career goals.
3. A brief budget summary/justification not to exceed 1 page. Only provide the budget that includes up to \$1500, even if you need more funds.
4. Unofficial transcript (most recent)
5. One letter of recommendation by a faculty member affiliated with the doctoral program (not serving on the Award Selection Committee)

### **Applicable Award Expenses:**

Funds from the Gerontology Early Career Development Award can be utilized for the following purposes:

1. Specialized data analytic training (e.g., registration, books, course material fees)

2. Data access or data sharing agreement fees and expenses.
3. Primary data collection expenses
4. Laboratory expenses (e.g., assays, processing fees)
5. Travel to gain experience with an expert in a field relevant to your research (e.g., clinical experience, learning specific techniques in a lab or for specific measurement)
6. Travel to a conference to gain valuable knowledge in a specific area of research. You must state the explicit workshop or session that will assist you. You may not include GSA unless you are requesting funds for a specific workshop.
7. Not to be used for professional organization membership fees

Please note that the award will be paid as a stipend and the awardees will need to keep any necessary records for personal tax purposes.

You must justify/explain how the items you plan to use or attend will assist you with your dissertation and/or career.

Please note, currently the funds are disbursed through payroll. Applicable taxes will be deducted from the amount awarded.

**Logistics:**

1. Deadlines: Applications are due no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>. The date will be specified on the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health Award page.
2. Awardees are selected by the end of April.
3. Awardees are recognized during the May graduation celebration of the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health at the UMB campus.

**Award Review Committee:**

Award Review Committee will consist of 2-3 reviewers.

One of the Program Directors will provide consultation to the committee as needed. Reviewers will not be mentors or dissertation chairpersons of applicants being considered for the award. All other conflicts of interest regarding applicant selection should be avoided.

**Review and Rating Criteria:**

The Award Review Committee will consider and comment on the following:

1. Established record of activity in aging research thus far.
2. Clearly defined career goals to address needs of the older adult population.
3. Justification for how the award funds will contribute to independent career goals.
4. Award effectiveness in serving the student's goals.
5. Appropriateness of the request