ACT Scholars Program

ACT was founded in 1959 as the American College Testing Program by the University of Iowa education leaders E. F. Lindquist and Ted McCarrel. Still headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, ACT is now an international leader in education and workforce assessment and measurement. The not-for-profit organization, dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success, provides a broad array of assessment, research, information, and program management solutions. Each year, ACT serves millions of people, both nationally and internationally, in middle and high schools, colleges, professional associations, businesses and government agencies.

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary in 2009, ACT committed $5 million to the University of Iowa Foundation to endow the ACT Scholars Program at the University of Iowa. The Program will begin making awards to graduate students during the 2010-2011 academic year.

In collaboration with ACT, the University of Iowa Graduate College is pleased to accept nominations for the ACT Scholars program. The ACT Scholars program is intended to provide opportunities for qualified students to pursue graduate degrees at the University of Iowa in programs of study that are pertinent to ACT. Thus students pursuing graduate degrees in the following general areas (colleges) are eligible. **Students in related areas of graduate research will be considered on a case by case basis.**

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences:**
Statistical research
Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Communications
Computer Science

**College of Business:**
Accounting
Management and Organizations

**College of Engineering:**
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Industrial Engineering

**College of Education:**
Curriculum and Instruction
Educational Measurement

**College of Law:**
Business Law

Recipients of the ACT Scholars awards will receive an annual (9 month) stipend equivalent to a 50% research assistantship ($20,000), benefits and a full resident rate tuition scholarship. Priority will be given to students from historically under-represented populations, including African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans. Students must have been accepted for graduate study at the University of Iowa.
All ACT scholars will be assigned to conduct research and will participate in professional activities in a pertinent business unit of ACT. These assignments will be made in concert with the student’s individual academic program and interests. An ACT mentor will be assigned to each ACT Scholar. It is expected that the collaboration will be mutually beneficial to the ACT Scholar and to the ACT unit in which the student participates. The activities at ACT are professional development and learning activities.

The student’s ACT mentor and UI faculty advisor will be in regular communication to ensure that the research and professional development activities of the Scholar complement each other in order to build an intellectual community of researchers between ACT and the UI.

It is anticipated that ACT Scholars will receive support for up to four years (maximum), pending successful academic and research progress. Each Scholar will be reviewed annually by the ACT and UI co-directors to assure adequate progress. Termination of the award may be made if the co-directors agree that insufficient progress is being made by the Scholar. Each participating College may nominate up to three individuals per year.

**Nomination Process and Selection Criteria:**

Nomination for an ACT Scholars award must be submitted by the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) of the particular student’s program. The nomination must be approved and a letter of support provided by the collegiate dean or his/her designee.

The nomination must include:

1). A nomination letter from the DGS describing the exceptional qualifications of the student as well as how the student’s research, scholarship and career goals match those of ACT. The nomination must articulate how the student will be mentored throughout the program and a general plan of study must be stated.

2). A copy of the student’s current transcript, including undergraduate career record (grades and GRE or other entrance test scores) and academic progress at the University of Iowa, must be included.

3). A statement of purpose written by the nominee must be included. This statement should articulate the academic, research and career goals of the student.

A joint Selection Committee comprised of representatives of the Graduate College at the UI and ACT will review nominations and select the recipients for the inaugural awards starting in fall 2010.

The Graduate College will begin to accept nominations beginning January 15, 2010 through February 28, 2010. Selections will be made and announced by March 31, 2010.