

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Society of Hellman Fellows Program

2024 - 2025

Criteria and Deadlines

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Hellman family created an endowment in perpetuity on the UC Davis campus to establish the Society of Hellman Fellows, providing support and encouragement for the research of promising Assistant Professors who exhibit potential for great distinction in their research, and who have documented a need for funding. It is expected that the fellowship will support research and creative activities that will promote career advancement and enhance the individual's progress toward tenure.

ELIGIBILITY

► **Only** tenure-track faculty members who will have completed two years as **Assistant Professor** by September 30, 2024 are eligible for consideration. Professors of Teaching are not eligible for this Fellowship. If an applicant spent one or more years as an Assistant Professor at another research university with equivalent research responsibility before coming to UC Davis, that time may be counted towards the minimum of two years at rank by September 30, 2024. Note: If you have been an Assistant Professor for two years, but were on unpaid leave for one year to complete your postdoc, etc., then you are not eligible this year to apply for a Hellman Fellowship.

► Full-time Assistant Professors, except for those in the Schools of Law, Medicine, Nursing and Veterinary Medicine, are eligible if they are non-tenured at the time of the fellowship start date (October 1, 2024) and will not be under consideration for tenure while holding a Society of Hellman Fellowship.

► If a faculty member has a partial appointment in the School of Law, Medicine, Nursing, or Veterinary Medicine, plus a partial FTE appointment in a school/college that does qualify for a Society of Hellman Fellowship, they can apply through the qualifying department.

► Assistant Professors who will be considered for tenure in the 2024-2025 academic year are not eligible to apply for a Society of Hellman Fellowship.

► Assistant Professors who applied for, but did not receive, a Society of Hellman Fellowship for the 2023-2024 academic year are eligible to reapply for the 2024-2025 fellowship if they meet the above criteria.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Preference in awarding Society of Hellman Fellowships will be given to faculty members who:

- show great promise in their scholarship;
- submit outstanding proposals documenting how Hellman funding will advance their research or other academic creative activities;
- have only modest means to support their research; and
- have never received other “early career investigator” awards.

Applicants who have received substantial start-up funding and/or extramural grants to support their research programs must clearly indicate how Hellman funding will allow them to pursue critical activities that cannot be supported by these other funding sources.

A number of government agencies (NIH, NSF, etc.) and professional societies award research grants specifically designated for scholars in the early period of their careers. Since these awards provide recognition and funding for researchers at the Assistant Professor level that duplicate the purpose of the Society of Hellman Fellowship program, faculty members who hold such awards are not eligible to apply for a Hellman Fellowship.

BUDGET PROPOSALS AND APPROPRIATE EXPENDITURES

Society of Hellman Fellowship funds may be used for research-related expenses, such as laboratory equipment, travel to a site where data will be collected, attending a professional meeting where the Fellow will present a paper, and funding salaries for research assistants, students (including graduate student fees), or postdoctoral fellows on the research team.

Recognizing that tenure-track faculty, especially those in programs with heavy teaching loads, often struggle to find time for scholarship, Society of Hellman Fellowship funding may also be used to provide partial teaching relief during the fellowship year. However, because promotion to tenure at UC Davis requires strong evidence of teaching commitment and effectiveness, it is important that Fellows continue to participate in teaching and service to their departments and the campus. Accordingly, Society of Hellman Fellows may request teaching relief for no more than one academic quarter during their fellowship year, and the department Chair must support their request.

Hellman funding may be used to pay the salary and benefits of a lecturer who will provide the necessary course relief. Hellman funding may also be used to pay one month of a Fellow's Summer Salary. Because attendance at professional meetings is important to a Fellow's professional progress, and time for undistracted work is necessary for progress on the project, up to 5% of the total Budget may be allocated to fund child care. Note: Hellman funding may not be used for air fare expenses for a child or childcare provider.

Society of Hellman Fellowship award requests are expected to range from about \$10,000 to \$50,000 to support one year of proposed activities. Keep in mind, however, that there must be clear and complete justification for the amount requested. Applicants should take particular care when developing budgets for personnel, by accounting for the costs of benefits and fees, as well as salaries. Moreover, the relationship of the proposed Hellman-funded activities to ongoing research funded from other sources must be explained. Society of Hellman Fellowships are not subject to an indirect rate; the recipient receives 100% of the award funds. Although the duration of the award is normally one year, if the awardee does not spend all of the award funds in the grant year, they may request permission to spend the carryover amount in a second year. In any event, award recipients are required to spend all funds before their tenure case is put forward for consideration, and return any unused funds to Academic Affairs. Applicants have a choice of three starting dates for their proposals (10/1/24, 1/1/25, or 4/1/25) in order to help them integrate their Society of Hellman Fellowship research with their other academic duties. **However, regardless of which start date is chosen, it is expected that applicants will have been in the Assistant Professor rank for at least two years by September 30, 2024.**

Society of Hellman Fellows agree to attend a luncheon meeting to share their work with the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and to provide a photograph and text for inclusion in the Society's webpage.

DUE DATES

- 4/3/24 Applications are due to Department Chair for signature and approval.
- 4/10/24 Department Chair forwards the approved application to the Dean for approval and signature.
- 4/17/24 Dean forwards the electronic applications, along with a list of all applicants from that school/college, to the office of the Vice Provost-Academic Affairs by 5 pm for referral to the Hellman Review Panel.
- 6/2024 The 2024-2025 Society of Hellman Fellows will be announced.

Questions: If you have questions about eligibility or the application process, please contact Lynn White at Imdaum@ucdavis.edu.