

Gilliam: Key Characteristics of a Successful Application (2019 Competition Cycle)

Training Environment (Program and Lab)

- A letter of nomination written by the designated institutional nominator that speaks to the adviser's interest, ability, and commitment to develop students, including those from underrepresented groups, and clearly explains why the adviser-student pair is nominated for the award.
- The Nominating materials in response to the specific prompts:
 - Highlight institutional efforts towards increasing diversity;
 - Specify institutional efforts to foster an inclusive campus climate; and
 - Discuss the impact of active or previous Gilliam awards on the campus and thoughtfully describe what impact the new award will have.
- The Mentoring Plan:
 - Focuses on the student's career aspirations and provides clear evidence of a strong, collaborative relationship between the adviser and the student;
 - Maps well to the student's specific strengths and areas for improvement; and
 - Includes sufficient details about the scientific, personal, and career development of the student, including the adviser's role in training the student, the frequency of adviser-advisee meetings, and a well-considered plan for conflict resolution.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Plan:
 - Demonstrates the adviser's personal investment in diversity and inclusion at the graduate level as reflected in the proposed activities;
 - Articulates the specific institutional challenges to diversity and inclusion, especially at the graduate level, and how the proposed activities would address the challenges; and
 - Discusses how planned activities would have a broader impact on the graduate program, department and/or the institution.

Student Application Materials

- The Research Proposal:
 - Directly (narrative) and indirectly (references) makes clear the project's significance to the field using language that is understandable by a non-specialist scientist; and
 - Provides a clear rationale for the proposed experiments, methods that map well to the aims, discusses the feasibility of the experiments, explains the results of the experiments within the context of the overall hypothesis, and includes alternative strategies.
- The Leadership Statement:
 - Clearly states career plans and describes how the student will attain their goal; and
 - Articulates how the student's trajectory and growth as a scientific scholar is informed by and/or integral to their cultural identit(ies).
- Letters of Support:
 - Letters of support from a previous adviser and the current adviser that specifically address the student's potential for scientific leadership.