**Program Description and Eligibility**

The Witherspoon Graduate Fellowship was established to honor the accomplishments of [Dr. Augustus M. Witherspoon](https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/news/special-collections/fabulous-50-augustus-witherspoon-awarded-phd). Dr. Witherspoon received his Ph.D. from NC State in 1971. He was the second Black graduate student to receive a doctorate from the university and the first Black professor at NC State. In addition to being a full professor, he also was an Assistant Dean and Associate Dean of The Graduate School and later Associate Provost of the Office of African American Affairs. In 1992, he received a citation of appreciation from the NC State Board of Trustees for his service to the university. The [Witherspoon Student Center](https://studentcenters.ncsu.edu/location/witherspoon/) was named in his honor. The [April 1, 1995 edition of the NC State University Nubian Message](https://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/nubian-message-1995-04-01#?c=&m=&s=&cv=&xywh=-9914%2C0%2C24551%2C6558) has further information on the numerous accomplishments of Dr. Witherspoon.

The Witherspoon Fellowship is awarded to students who have demonstrated experience in or a commitment to supporting Black communities within and beyond NC State’s campus. It is available only to graduate students entering their second year of graduate study in their current degree program in the 2024-25 academic year. For example, a student possessing a previous master’s degree and who will be in the second year of their doctoral program at NC State in 2024-25 is still eligible for nomination.

**Nomination Submission Instructions**

Nominations may be submitted by academic advisors, Directors of Graduate Programs or officers of any NC State University student organization actively engaged with Black communities. There is no limit to the number of students that may be nominated by a department or student organization.

To nominate a graduate student for a Witherspoon Graduate Fellowship, please complete the attached short form, and include the following supporting documents:

* Statement of interest and justification for participation in this program from the nominee. This statement must include *specific examples* of experience in and commitment to supporting Black communities within and beyond NC State’s campus (2-page maximum).
* One letter of recommendation from the individual submitting the nomination.
* Nominee’s Resume or CV (There is not a page limit.).

## *Note: Use minimum of 12-point font for the letter of recommendation and statement of interest.*

**Selections Process and Fellowship Amount**

For the 2024 competition there are a total of 7 awards available in the amount of $2000 each. Selections will be made by a committee comprised of representatives from The Graduate School as well as the [Black Alumni Society](https://alumni.ncsu.edu/engagement/constituency-groups/black-alumni-society/). Awards will be distributed in summer 2024.

**Deadline and Contact Information**

The form and supporting documentation should be compiled into a ***single pdf file*** and e-mailed to Dr. David Shafer, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, at [dmshafer@ncsu.edu](mailto:dmshafer@ncsu.edu).

The nomination deadline is **May 31, 2024.** Award decisions will be made by June 17, 2024.

**Nominee Information:**

**Name of Nominee\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Last First Middle (optional)*

**NC State Student ID Number** (optional): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Department and/or Graduate Program: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Estimated amount of assistantship or fellowship funding that will be received in addition to the Witherspoon Fellowship during summer 2024** *(if known):*

**$\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Nominator Information:**

**Name of Nominator:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Advisor, *Director of Graduate Programs or Officer (Office Held/Name of Student Organization)*

**Nominator’s E-Mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:**

**Signed**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Advisor, *Director of Graduate Programs or Student Organization Officer*

**Signed**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Nominee