



2020-21 Predoctoral Fellowships Call for Applications/Renewal – Due March 31, 2020

Retirement and Disability Graduate Research Mentored Fellowship

[The Center for Financial Security](#) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has two positions for doctoral students. Both positions are in-resident fellowships in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Retirement and Disability Graduate Research Mentored Fellowship is an interdisciplinary program providing support and mentored research opportunities for graduate students interested in retirement and disability research. Funded by the Social Security Administration through CFS' [Retirement and Disability Research Consortium](#) (RDRC), it provides one-year fellowships for students who have completed coursework and are on track to completing a PhD degree in the next one to three years.

Madison offers an outstanding training environment for graduate students and a strong track-record of alumni achievement. Fellows will have access to mentors across disciplines including Sociology, Economics, Social Work, Business, Consumer Science, and other social sciences. Other UW centers, including the Center for Demography and Ecology, Institute for Research on Poverty, and Center for Demography of Health and Aging, also provide collaborative opportunities for students. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applicants should submit a research proposal that will be the focus of their work under the Fellowship. Each project should result in a working paper for SSA, as well as a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer reviewed journal.

Pre-doctoral fellows will conduct research around one of these central themes:

1. Interactions between public assistance and social insurance over the life course;
2. The role of health, health insurance, and financial decisions in household financial security;
3. How economically vulnerable households combine work, pensions, and social insurance over the life course, or
4. Low-net-wealth households and retirement well-being, including the role of housing wealth, saving, and debt.

All proposals should include specific research questions and the proposed data to answer these questions. The potential findings should be policy relevant for policymakers, as well as contribute to the retirement and disability research literature. A discussion of how this work is an extension of current/existing research and/or how the work creates opportunities for future projects should also be included. Applicants should describe their interest and experience in retirement and disability; their experiences working with data in applied research; and propose and discuss the research question(s) they will study as part of this project. Candidates should also discuss the scholar's ideal mentoring and support that would be available as part of this pre-doctoral fellowship.

Eligibility: An ideal candidate will have strong quantitative and writing skills, advanced knowledge of demographic and econometric methods with large survey and/or administrative data, and training or interest in issues relating to retirement and disability. Suitable backgrounds would be Economics, Policy, Demography, Public Health, Sociology, and other related fields.



Award: These 50% appointments comes with a \$25,000 annual stipend as well as tuition remission (if applicable) and support for segregated fees. The fellowships are based on 12 months of work, including summers as appropriate. Fellows will be furnished with office space and computer equipment.

Application Materials and Submission:

Renewing applicants will need to submit a research prospectus (no more than three pages in length) that includes a summary of your overall proposal, significance of your research, a discussion of the central research themes, and a data and methods section that includes your data source and techniques you will use in your analysis. The renewal form, where you will upload your research proposal, is online at: <https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/training>.

New applicants will need to complete basic background information and upload the following documents to the [online application](#):

- ✓ Cover Letter (1 page)
- ✓ 3-page research prospectus
- ✓ CV
- ✓ Letter of Recommendation from an advisor
- ✓ Working paper or published paper on which you are primary author

The cover letter should describe your research interests and how you see this fellowship supporting your development as a scholar of retirement and disability research. The research prospectus should be no more than three pages in length, and include a summary of your overall proposal, significance of your research, a discussion of the central research themes, and a data and methods section that indicates your data source and techniques you will use in your analysis.

- ✓ Full name
- ✓ Current Institution
- ✓ Department or Field
- ✓ Graduate status: Year began, current status, expected graduation date
- ✓ Dissertation chair or main advisor
- ✓ Contact Mailing Address
- ✓ Contact Phone
- ✓ Contact Email
- ✓ Personal website

For full consideration, submit your application by March 31, 2020. All applications will be reviewed by a panel of scholars from CFS, SSA or RDRC programs. Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria and weights:

- Research prospectus (40%)
- Research capability (20%)
- Writing and communication capability (20%)
- Recommendation letter (20%)

All projects will also be subject to review by program officials before Fellows are named. For more information, contact Professor J. Michael Collins (jmcollins@wisc.edu), Faculty Director of the Center for Financial Security.