



A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Future Faculty Program Announcement-2007

The Future Faculty Program (FFP) has been introduced to increase the number of Clark School Ph.D. graduates who obtain academic positions—in particular faculty positions in prestigious engineering schools. In addition, the Program is intended to improve the preparation of students for academic careers so that they can better succeed once they obtain such a position. Students admitted to the program are designated as Future Faculty Fellows. The program is highly selective. Fellows are chosen based on motivation for becoming a faculty member and potential for securing a tenure-track faculty position at a top-50 engineering school.

The FFP consists of a sequence of three one-credit training seminars, a teaching practicum and a research mentoring practicum. Typically, the participant will undertake the teaching practicum and research mentoring practicum after completing all of the training seminars. However, if there is insufficient time until graduation, the student can do one or both of the practicum in parallel with the final seminar.

1. *Application Process:* The application deadline is December 14, 2007. To be eligible, the student must be in a Ph.D. program, passed the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, and have at least three semesters remaining before completion of degree. The application must include the following:

- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of recommendation from research advisor
- Letter of recommendation from additional faculty member
- Personal statement including reasons for wanting to become a faculty member (one page)

The application must be completed online at www.eng.umd.edu/academics/ffa_apply.html

2. *Training seminars:* For three semesters starting in the spring, Fellows will attend one-credit seminars that train the students in some of the skills required for a successful academic career.

Among the topics to be covered in Seminar I are:

- Giving effective oral presentations
- Writing technical papers and reports

Seminar II is on “Effective Teaching Techniques”. The topics to be covered include the following:

- Creating course content
- Managing a class
- Interacting effectively with students
- Student learning styles

The topics to be covered in Seminar III include the following:

- Identifying research areas
- Writing grant proposals
- Developing effective interviewing skills

The seminars are provided by faculty with a proven record in the above areas and Fellows will be asked to prepare the documents discussed, submit their material for review by the instructor, and revise their material in accordance with the review comments. Other University resources (the Writing Center, the Career and Placement Services) will be used whenever necessary or advisable to complement the instruction provided by faculty. In the teaching seminar, the participants will play an active role in the presentation of the seminar content.

3. *Teaching practicum*: Each Fellow will be teamed with a senior faculty member and provided with the opportunity to co-teach a course. The Fellow is expected to be involved in all the aspects of the course; she/he will help in the development of the syllabus, teach roughly half of the lectures, write and grade exams, and evaluate the students. In all these activities, there will be close supervision by the faculty mentor. The teaching practicum will count towards one credit of coursework. Typically, the teaching practicum will be completed during the academic year following the completion of the training seminars. However, if there is insufficient time until graduation, it may be done concurrently with Seminar III. Prior to the start of the teaching practicum, any Fellow who is not a native speaker of English will be expected to successfully complete the Maryland English Institute ITA Evaluation.

4. *Research mentor practicum*: Together with a faculty member, each Fellow will co-supervise a research project of either an undergraduate or a more junior graduate student. The Fellow will help formulate the research problem and meet regularly with the supervised student to provide advice and monitor progress. This will usually be done during the summer or academic year following the completion of the training seminars. However, if necessary, this can be done concurrently with Seminar III.

5. *Mentoring*: The Advisor of each Fellow, or another appropriate faculty member, will be expected to serve as the mentor for the participant, and the

mentor will be provided with appropriate training for this role. The faculty mentor will give career counseling to help identify available and appropriate faculty openings, and promote the Fellow's qualifications with his/her colleagues at other Universities.

6. *Fellowship*: Fellows will receive a supplemental fellowship of \$2,000 for each semester in the program with a maximum total of \$10,000, assuming satisfactory progress in the FFP. This is in addition to their regular research or teaching assistantship. One half of each supplement is reserved for travel to attend professional conferences.