

FAST (Future Academic Scholars in Teaching) Fellowship Program: Engaging Doctoral Students with Assessment of Student Learning and Teaching-as Research

<http://grad.msu.edu/fast/>

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The FAST (Future Academic Scholars in Teaching) Fellowship Program is for STEM doctoral students with interests in teaching, learning, and assessment in higher education. This high engagement program was developed in 2006 in response to the national call for preparing future faculty to meet the changing needs and expectations in STEM education.

Program Development & Activities

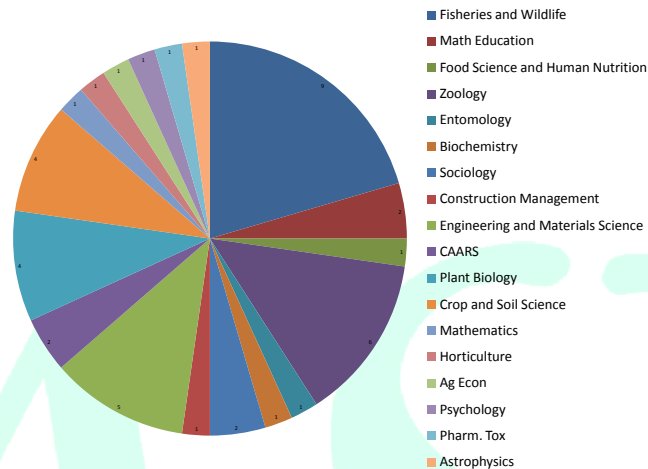
Participants (2006-07 to 2010-11)

Evaluation

Department Participation for 44 Fellows
(17 males, 27 females from 5 colleges)

- Pre- and post-surveys to analyze program impact at three levels: cognitive, expectations and behavior.
- Semi-structured interviews >(3-6 mths post-program). To complement the data collection with more detailed and rich information.

- Academic-year long program.
- 10-12 Fellows selected/yr.
- Administered by MSU CIRT L Steering Committee.
- Conduct and present a mentored Teaching-as-Research (TAR) project.
- Fellows provided \$2,000 for TAR projects.
- Attend workshops and meetings.
- Peer evaluation and collaboration on projects.
- Use of human subjects and research ethics (IRB).
- Discuss topics associated with pedagogy, teaching and learning, and preparing for academic positions.



Comments from Fellows

“Peer mentoring was great. I enjoyed getting the feedback especially working with science people. It pushed me to think about why this is useful outside of math.”

“I just didn’t know anything about teaching as research so the project really forced me to get into the lit and expand my horizons. I found a lot of resources.”

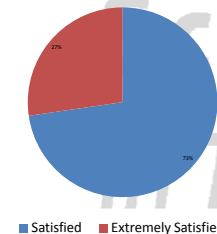
“The SC emphasized to us that teaching as research wasn’t any different from research in anything else. That’s definitely ingrained in my mind I look at my teaching with the same eyes in terms of quality.”

Program Topics/Components

Self-Reported Skill Gains

Reported Program Satisfaction

n=24; 92%
Were “Satisfied”
or “Extremely
Satisfied” with
FAST



Where are the Fellows?

e.g., Univ. of Mich.-Ann Arbor, Lansing Community College, Hillsdale College, Univ. of Toronto, NC State Univ., Univ. of Mich.-Flint, MSU, Central Mich. Univ.

High Engagement + Mentoring with Low Faculty/Student Ratios = Future STEM Faculty Success!

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