Artists, Scholars, Scientists, & Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow (ASSET)

FAQ's

1. Why are we no longer calling it the Ford Fellowship Program?
The Ford Foundation created the original program but it has been many years since they funded the Knox Ford Program. However, the Ford Foundation does award fellowships and in order to avoid confusing our students about the award they are receiving it seems wise to change the name of the program.

2. Will it be more difficult for students intending to pursue graduate study and an academic career to gain entry to the program?
No. There are 7 named fellowships for the program that are supported by restricted funds. These fellowships specify that they be awarded to students pursuing research or scholarly projects. In addition, it’s likely that pre-law and pre-health profession students will propose research or scholarly project. Therefore, at least 7, and perhaps as many as 10 of the slots will go to students with project similar to those proposed for the Ford Program.

3. Will there be a Winter Seminar?
Yes. The seminar will continue to be offered during the winter term and the ASSET Fellows who are on campus that term will be expected to participate. The traditional focus on navigating graduate school will be expanded to include professional degrees such as law and medicine. In addition, local and alumni professionals, artists, and entrepreneurs will be invited to meet with the ASSET Fellows to share their career paths and experiences. Students studying abroad in the winter term may still apply to ASSET and attend the seminar in their senior year.

4. Why are students in this program required to work on their project during the summer?
Requiring the students to work on their projects during the summer allows them to share with each other the challenges of the work in a wide variety of disciplines. Ford Fellows were allowed to receive a smaller stipend if they chose to work on their projects in December rather than in the summer. However, students who wish to conduct a project during December can apply for approximately the same amount of funding through the Richter Funds.

5. Why is a faculty nomination no longer required?
Faculty members are welcome to nominate students. Those who are nominated will be contacted by the Vovis Center and invited to apply. However, allowing students to apply without a faculty nomination ensures that all eligible students have the same opportunity to participate. A letter of support from a faculty member, ideally the project mentor, is still a requirement for the application.