

BETTY KENT MEMORIAL AWARD

GUIDELINES

Background. Betty Kent was raised in Dayton, Ohio and was a 1945 graduate of Miami University who majored in sociology. As an undergraduate, she served on the staff of *The Miami Student* and was a member of the University Theatre Players, Ye Merrie Players (Dramatic Honorary), and the Delta Sigma Epsilon Sorority. After graduation, she completed a thirty-year management career at the U.S. Census Bureau.

During her senior year at Miami, her senior project consisted of compiling census tract information in Hamilton, Ohio. She received a small research grant from the Department of Sociology which allowed her to expand her project and inspired her to enter graduate school and pursue a career with the U.S. Census Bureau. She was committed to providing similar opportunities for undergraduates in the future with this award.

Eligibility: Students eligible for the award include all full-time undergraduate Sociology majors on all campuses who:

- 1) have completed at least 14 hours in Sociology;
- 2) have a GPA of at least 3.0 in Sociology; and
- 3) will be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate during the study period.

The Betty Kent Memorial Award exists to encourage independent research projects by undergraduate Sociology majors at Miami University within the discipline of Sociology. The goal of the program is to foster discovery and creativity through a research experience. Although projects must be initiated and developed by student applicant(s), each application must also be sponsored by a Sociology faculty member.

Amount of award: up to \$2,000; an additional \$500 will be available to support travel to a professional meeting to present your results

Application deadline: December 3 – Spring/Summer study periods
March 3 – Summer/Fall study periods

ENDORSEMENT SHEET

BETTY KENT FUND FOR STUDENT RESEARCH APPLICATION

PROJECT TITLE _____

FUNDS REQUESTED _____

DATES OF STUDY PERIOD Spring Summer Fall

STUDENT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAJOR(S) _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

FACULTY SPONSOR _____

Are you applying for any other awards to fund this project? NO _____ YES _____

If yes, which one(s) and the amount(s) requested? _____

REGULATORY COMMITTEES

Will you in any way be using human subjects in your project? NO _____ YES _____

If YES, please review the section on Human Subjects (below). **Note: You must also take the appropriate training program, if one is required.**

SIGNATURES

(Student)

(date)

(Faculty advisor)

(date)

BACKGROUND OF THE INVESTIGATOR

In your proposal, be sure to indicate any training, coursework, or experience you have had pertinent to the project. Note here, if required by the nature of your research, your successful completion of appropriate training, and compliance with regulations necessary before starting the research.

STUDENT CERTIFICATION

By submitting this application, **I certify that this proposal was initiated and developed by me,** under the supervision of my faculty sponsor. Further, I understand that, if awarded the grant, I shall submit a report to the Department of Sociology & Gerontology. The report will indicate my progress and explain what I have gained through the project. The typed report will bear the signature of my faculty sponsor.

Signature of Student

Date

FACULTY SPONSOR ENDORSEMENT

By endorsing this application, I certify that this proposal was initiated and developed by the student whose signature appears above, with supervision and only minimal advice from me. In addition, I have read and agree to comply with the guidelines entitled Betty Kent Memorial Award.

I also certify that this student has submitted the appropriate completed form(s) for approval of any work that involves human subjects and will complete any required training for the appropriate compliance committee prior to beginning this research.

Signature of Faculty Sponsor

Date

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Betty Kent Memorial Award

APPLICATION SUBMISSION: One copy of the completed application must be filed with the Department of Sociology & Gerontology (375 Upham Hall) by the deadline. Your application must have all of the following sections, including sub-sections, listed below.

Endorsement Sheet: The endorsement sheet must be completed and submitted with all requested information.

Details of the Proposed Project: The main section of the application should be a typed explanation of the details of the proposed research. This narrative part of the application should be 3-5 pages in length. Your proposal will be evaluated by a committee comprised of faculty in the Department of Sociology and Gerontology.

Format:

(1) Cover Page including:

- Project Title.
- Name of Investigator.
- Abstract. Briefly, in 200 words or less, give a summary of the project. This should include purpose, expected outcomes, and significance of the project, not only to the field of study and/or society, but also to your own educational development.

(2) Narrative including:

- Introduction.
 - What work has been done by others on this problem you wish to research?
 - What work has been done by you on this problem?
- Statement of Research Question.
 - Clearly state what you intend to accomplish or find by completing your project.
 - Describe the results you expect to obtain.
 - Discuss how you will analyze and interpret the data.
- Methodology. Briefly outline the major steps in your project. Be certain that you:
 - Explain how your methods are appropriate for investigating the problem
 - Provide a timeline identifying the expected progress and completion of your project within the study period.
- Literature Cited (as many pages as needed). Give references (complete with titles) for all literature cited in the proposal.

Evaluation of Proposals:

The following criteria will be used in evaluating the proposals:

Readability. Is the proposal easily understood?

Format. Does the application follow the format in the guidelines?

Quality. Is the research problem clearly articulated?

Significance. Is the problem worth investigating? Why is the work important?

Feasibility. Is completing the project possible within a study period and with facilities available to the researcher?

Educational value. Are the skills to be learned of high academic quality and significance?

Preparation of the researcher. Does the researcher have adequate training and experience to undertake and complete the project?

Final Report and Due Dates:

A final report describing the major goal(s) and result(s) of the project must be submitted to the Chair of the Department of Sociology & Gerontology (Room 375). Final reports are due April 25th (Spring) and November 28th (Summer/Fall).

Notification of Project Approval and Awarding of Grants:

The applicant(s) will be informed of the Committee's decision approximately two weeks following application submission deadlines.

Human Subjects:

Projects involving human subjects must meet appropriate university regulations and guidelines. Awards for the Betty Kent Memorial Award will be contingent upon the approval of the research protocol by the University's Human Subjects Committee. No money will be awarded until that committee has reviewed and approved the proposal. Faculty mentors must make certain that the project has been/will be approved by the appropriate committee before any work begins involving human subjects.

- The *Human Subjects Review Form* is available at OAST, 102 Roudebush.
- Forms are also available at: http://www.units.muohio.edu/oars/compliance_committee/