1. Student nominated for the DDF must pass their prospectus/proposal meeting at least one week before 2018 Graduate School DDF deadline (late Feb).

*Purpose:* Students' proposal will be stronger if they go through the formal review and approval with their committee members.

2. The nominee's two letter writers (advisor and other faculty member) are required to communicate with DGS at least once and send draft of letters to DGS at a date set by the DGS.

*Purpose:* The cohesion and "storytelling" of the two letters of recommendation and DGS evaluation make the difference between a strong nomination and an average nomination. According to DDF selection committee members, the letters of recommendation are often used as evidence for a "tie breaking" choice between two nominations.

3. Departments are strongly encouraged to plan intentional DDF discussions during new student orientation or subsequent workshops or seminars that begin early in students' program (if not already doing so).

*Purpose:* Students need to begin thinking about and planning publications and experiences early in their program so they have a full list of accomplishments for a strong application.

4. The CEHD Dean's Office will host one fall workshop for DGSs and prospective applicants with a panel of current DDF recipients and current DDF committee members. All prospective applicants are expected to attend one of the CEHD-sponsored workshops either in person or electronically.

*Purpose:* The College is committed to supporting a culture of excellence in all departments. This workshop gives all students across the college the opportunity to learn more about successful strategies.

Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain