

DR. BENJAMIN E. MAYS BIOGRAPHY



Benjamin Elijah Mays was born in 1895 in South Carolina, and graduated from Bates College in Maine in 1920. He attended the University of Chicago for his Master's degree and doctorate. While working on those degrees he was ordained into the Baptist ministry. Benjamin Mays

taught at Morehouse College and at South Carolina State College. From 1934 to 1940, he served as dean of the Howard University School of Religion and then moved on to the presidency of Morehouse College, a position he held with distinction for the next quarter of a century. He also served his community, becoming the first black president of the Atlanta school board.

Dr. Mays spoke early and often against segregation and for education. He received nearly thirty honorary doctorates and other honors and awards including election to the Schomburg Honor Roll of Race Relations, one of a dozen major leaders so honored. He was a model for one of his Morehouse students, Martin Luther King, Jr., and he served the young minister as an unofficial senior advisor. Among Dr. Mays books were the first sociological study of African-American religion, *The Negro's Church*, (1933); *The Negro's God, as Reflected in His Literature*, (1938); *Disturbed About Man*, (1969); and his autobiography *Born to Rebel*, (1971). These books reveal a combination of sharp intellect, religious commitment and prophetic conviction.

The American National Biography website has a comprehensive biography on Dr. Mays at <http://www.anb.org/articles/15/15-01112.html>

The MMUF program has contributed immeasurably to my academic and intellectual life. Not only has it offered me invaluable resources through its numerous programs and research opportunities, it has also encouraged and supported my goals every step of the way. During my graduate school application process, the MMUF played a pivotal role in my admission to one of U.C. Berkeley's most prestigious doctoral programs. The MMUF continues to provide a solid support system and a wonderful sense of community. For this reason and countless others, I am truly proud to be a part of the Mellon family.

Marcelo Sousa
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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National Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
www.mmuf.org

Mellon Mays

Undergraduate Fellowship

University of California, Berkeley
Spring 20



**A fellowship for Arts & Humanities and
Social Science undergraduate students**

www.mellonmays.berkeley.edu

Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program at UC Berkeley

Spring 2010

THE PROGRAM

The Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF) program at UC Berkeley targets students with exceptional academic promise and potential for careers that will contribute to diversity and equal opportunity in the academy. The goal of the Berkeley MMUF program is to help Fellows prepare for success as graduate students and faculty members so that they can become important leaders and role models in higher education.

Through Berkeley's MMUF program, Fellows will develop their research and analytical skills and gain an understanding of life in academia. They will learn about the contribution of minority faculty and other prominent faculty of color, including Dr. Benjamin E. Mays. Ultimately, the MMUF program at UC Berkeley will prepare Fellows to enter graduate school in Mellon-designated fields of study and earn a doctoral degree.

The program will provide guidance, role models, and support for Fellows as they strive to achieve the highest academic goals. Through the program, Fellows will develop strong relationships with faculty mentors, and they will benefit from special opportunities for professional enrichment, including opportunities provided through other existing campus diversity programs and regional MMUF programs.

DEADLINES

**Application deadline for all materials:
February 11, 2010**

Finalist Interviews: late February/early March

Notification of selection: mid-March

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Summer 2010

- Learn about the MMUF program and the life of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays
- Continue meeting and working with faculty mentors matched in Spring 2010
- Develop research skills through introduction to literature review, writing, and library research

Junior Year

- Prepare for graduate school matriculation
- Learn about the activities involved in being a faculty member
- Conduct in-depth research with faculty mentor
- Develop research and teaching skills

Summer 2011

- Collaborate with faculty mentors to develop and conduct a research project

Senior Year

- Conduct a senior thesis or participate in honors program
- Continue with graduate school preparation
- Attend graduate preparation and professional enhancement workshops
- Participate in field trips to prospective graduate schools and cultural activities

BENEFITS

Undergraduate Fellows receive:

- Faculty mentorship
- Professional enrichment
- Graduate school preparation
- Academic year stipends of **\$3,000**
- Two summer stipends of **\$3,500**
- Travel grants and GRE prep assistance
- **\$10,000** undergraduate loan repayment

As Graduate Mellon Fellows, you will receive:

- Graduate training in proposal writing and dissertation development
- Preparation for the professoriate
- Opportunity for pre-doctoral grants: see

<http://mellonmays.ssrc.org>

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Academic promise
- Motivation and maturity for graduate study
- Intellectual potential in Mellon field of study
- Leadership as a mentor to African American, Chicano/Latino, and Native American students
- Contribution to diversity in student's field(s) of study
- Background and experience living or working with African American, Chicano/Latino or Native American communities
- Demonstrated commitment to the following
 - Understanding the barriers faced by underrepresented minorities
 - Breaking down stereotypes
 - Increasing understanding across racial and ethnic groups
- Commitment to all MMUF program activities
- Intent to apply to a summer research program listed at <http://mellonmays.berkeley.edu/resources.htm>
- Status as a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- See qualifying undergraduate arts and humanities and social science fields at www.mellonmays.berkeley.edu

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Second semester Sophomore standing during application period
- Minimum 3.2 GPA
- Official academic transcripts
- College-level writing sample
- Three letters of recommendation
- Statement of Purpose
- Current academic semester schedule
- Plan of study through senior year