FAQs about the
Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Bilingual Scholarship Program

What is the bilingual scholarship program?
The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health in Austin, Texas, has launched a groundbreaking bilingual scholarship program that will award an estimated $1 million in the next three years to Spanish-speaking students at accredited graduate social work programs in Texas. The new statewide program is the first of its kind in Texas and possibly in the U.S.

What’s the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health?
The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health is dedicated to improving the mental health of all Texans. The foundation achieves this mission through grant-making, consumer involvement, research, public policy and education activities in Texas. Created in 1940 by Miss Ima Hogg, daughter of former Texas Governor James Stephen Hogg, the foundation is part of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at The University of Texas at Austin.

Why did the foundation create the program?
The demand for bilingual social workers is greater than ever. Studies have shown that populations of color are under-represented in social work and other mental health professions. As a result, these populations are far less likely to receive effective mental health services that meet their cultural and linguistic needs.

The foundation is launching the scholarship program to raise awareness of the need for more cultural and linguistic diversity in the state’s mental health workforce while beginning to meet that need. The program also will help build cultural and linguistic diversity in higher education programs for mental health professions.

How does the program work?
For the 2008 – 2009 school year, the foundation is offering up to $22,000 in scholarship funds at each of the 11 Texas graduate social programs that are accredited or awaiting accreditation by the national Council on Social Work Education.

The schools must use the scholarship funds to cover full tuition and fees for graduate student recipients. Actual funds awarded by the foundation each year could vary, depending on the number of students receiving the scholarships at each graduate school.

What languages are included in the program?
Graduate students who are fluent in Spanish and English may apply for the scholarships. The foundation chose these languages because the need in Texas for more mental health professionals who speak Spanish is clear.

Latinos represent the state’s largest ethnic population. Spanish is the second-most common language in Texas and was the primary language spoken at home by 6.2 million people in Texas in 2006, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The bureau also reported in May 2008 that:

- Texas had the second-largest Hispanic population (8.6 million people) in the U.S. in 2007.
- From 2006 to 2007, Texas had the largest increase in Hispanic population (308,000 people).
- Hispanics accounted for 36 percent of the total population in Texas in 2007.
When will the scholarship program begin?
The foundation will begin awarding scholarships for the fall 2008 semester.

What are the criteria for awarding the scholarships?
Scholarship recipients must be fluent in Spanish and English and commit to work in Texas after graduation providing mental health services for a period equal to the timeframe of the scholarship. OLLU students must be full-time in either the regular (two-year) or advanced (one-year) MSW program.

What expenses will be covered by the scholarship?
The Hogg Foundation requires schools to use the scholarship funds to cover full tuition and fees for graduate student recipients. However, individual schools have the flexibility to decide how the funds will be applied. Maximum OLLU award for the two-year regular program is $22,000. Maximum OLLU award for the one-year advanced program is $11,000.

How will the language fluency of applicants be assessed?
OLLU applicants must indicate fluency on the scholarship application and must participate in an interview assessing Spanish language competency in late July either in-person or over the phone.

Can I receive a scholarship if I'm a part-time student?
The Hogg Foundation Bilingual Scholarship at OLLU is for full-time students.

Can I apply for a scholarship if I'm already a student in the program?
No, only new students will be eligible for the scholarships.

Can I qualify for a scholarship if I'm in an advanced one-year graduate program?
Only new students in the advanced and regular programs will be eligible for the scholarships.

Who will select the scholarship recipients?
Schools will submit their scholarship nominees to the Hogg Foundation, which will make the final determination.

When is the application deadline?
No later than Friday, July 31, 2009

When will the scholarship recipients be announced?
The foundation plans to announce scholarship recipients in August.

How do I apply?
Click here to download the OLLU application for the Hogg Foundation Bilingual Scholarship.