

Article IX. Grants Code

Section 2. Graduate Scholarship Fund (GSF)

The GSF is a need-based scholarship that can help assist with the cost of tuition, books, and fees for GPSA member students working toward their degrees. Member students must be enrolled in at least 6 credits in the semester in which they apply. GPSA works with the Financial Aid Office to determine the applicant's financial need, which accounts for 40% of an applicant's score while the other 60% comes from the application narrative. GSF is offered every Summer, Fall, and Spring Semester.

A. Funding History

1. The GSF was created in 2011 with a \$24,000 donation from the UNM President, \$20,000 investment from GPSA Council, and \$5,000 in other donations. The quasi-endowment is held by the University Foundation on behalf of GPSA.

B. Activities Funded

1. Acceptable GSF costs include:
 - a. Expenses for tuition, fees, and books (broadly construed to include art, music, or other supplies required in lieu of textbooks).
 - b. Expenses occurring only in the semester in which the applicant applies.
2. Unacceptable GSF costs include:
 - a. Non-need-based assistance.
 - b. Expenses other than tuition, fees, and books.

C. Amount of Funding

1. GSF can fund up to \$1000 per student per year.
2. A year refers to the period between June 1 and May 31.
3. See [Article IX. Section 1.D.6, 7] for activity funding periods and see [Article IX. Section 1.C.1] for application submission deadlines.

D. Application Requirements

1. A complete GSF application includes:
 - a. The completed HTML fields of the online GSF application.
 - b. An activity proposal submitted through the online system and not to exceed five hundred (500) words. The activity proposal should contain the following sections:
 1. Background
 - a. Applicant's academic/professional interests must be clearly stated.
 - b. Applicant's financial need and/or unique circumstances must be stated clearly, including other financial support pursued and provided.
 2. Benefits
 - a. The benefits of applicant receiving the funding must be clearly stated and linked to applicant's academic pursuits and degree completion.
 - b. Applicant must clearly state how GSF funds will be used.
 - c. A completed budget template filled out correctly and submitted through the online system, including supporting documentation.
 - d. A completed current year FAFSA or State Aid form (international students) on file with the Financial Aid Office, from which the applicant's financial

need is determined.

e. No materials besides those listed above shall be accepted.

E. Scoring Criteria. Forty (40) percent of the overall score comes from financial need data provided by the Financial Aid Office. Sixty (60) percent of the overall score comes from the application narrative.

The scoring criteria categories and minimum weighting for GSF must include:

1. Background (30 points)
 - a. Applicant's academic/professional interests are clearly stated.
 - b. Applicant's financial need is clearly stated, including a description of any other funding pursued and/or support received.
2. Benefits (20 points)
 - a. Specific use of GSF funds is clearly stated.
 - b. The benefit of funding to degree completion is articulated.
3. Composition (10 points)
 - a. Narrative flows logically and writing style is action oriented.
 - b. Technical terms are defined, and the proposal is suitable for a general audience.
4. Financial Aid Office provided data (40 points)
 - a. Financial need information provided by the Financial Aid Office.

F. Disqualification Criteria

1. Applications exceeding the seven five hundred (500) word limit.
2. Applications that were submitted after the deadline.
3. Incomplete applications – failure to complete a section of the proposal or have a current year FAFSA/State Aid form on file with the Financial Aid Office.
4. Applicants requesting support for a semester other than the semester in which they apply.
5. Applicants enrolled in less than 6 credit hours in the semester in which they apply.
6. Applicants requesting funds for an event or activity that does not qualify for the GSF as mentioned in [Article IX. Section 2.B].