



Spring 2025 Grants Report

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GPSA)

Joseph Conteh | Grants Director | May 15, 2025

GPSA FUNDING OVERVIEW

GPSA administers several grant programs funded through endowments and legislative appropriations. The Grants Program is administered by a Grants Director and overseen by a Grants Committee. It operates three funding cycles (summer, fall, and spring), supporting graduate and professional student development, research, clinical rotations, and demonstrated financial need. These programs provide scholarships and grants for professional development, research support, and need-based aid to GPSA members.

SPRING 2025 GRANT SUMMARY

The spring grant cycle ran from January to May 2025. A total of **\$46,650** in grants and scholarships were awarded to GPSA students across all programs. There were **64 awards** made between the four grant programs, drawn from **172 applications**. The Spring 2025 cycle was promoted through GPSA's official channels including the listserv, website, and social media, similar to past cycles. Two grant workshops were held in early February 2025 (recorded for later viewing) to guide applicants. A dedicated Grants Committee – consisting of 23 trained reviewers – evaluated each application thoroughly.

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (GSF)

The Graduate Scholarship Fund (GSF) is a need-based scholarship covering costs of tuition, books, and fees. Students may apply for up to \$1,000. In Spring 2025, the GSF received 44 applications and awarded **21** students a total of **\$21,000**.

Total Applications	Total Awardees	Total Funding Awarded
44	21	\$21,000

For the 21 GSF awards, the **departmental distribution** was as follows:

Department	Awardees
School of Public Administration	2
Education and Human Sciences	3
Anderson School of Management	3
Arts & Sciences	4

Department	Awardees
Fine Arts	1
Health Sciences & Medicine	1
Engineering	6
Architecture & Planning	1

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT (PDG)

The Professional Development Grant (PDG) assists with career-related activities such as job interviews, auditions, internships, clinical rotations, and non-presenting conference attendance. Students may apply for up to \$600. In Spring 2025, the PDG received 46 applications and awarded **14** students a total of **\$7,600**.

Total Applications	Total Awardees	Total Funding Awarded
46	14	\$7,600

For the 14 PDG awards, the **departmental distribution** was:

Department	Awardees
School of Public Administration	1
Arts & Sciences	7
Architecture & Planning	3
Engineering	1
Law	1
Education & Human Sciences	1

Student Research Grant (SRG)

The Student Research Grant (SRG) supports student research-related activities including travel, supplies, and presentation of research at conferencesfile-u8tfzrfmn8dpssdgwiozmf. Students may apply for up to \$750. In Spring 2025 the SRG received 73 applications and awarded **20** students a total of **\$13,000**.

Total Applications	Total Awardees	Total Funding Awarded
73	20	\$13,000

For the 20 SRG awards, the **departmental distribution** was:

Department	Awardees
Arts & Sciences	16
School of Public Administration	2
Education & Human Sciences	1
Architecture & Planning	1

HEALTH SCIENCES RURAL ROTATION GRANT (HSC)

The Health Sciences Rural Rotation Grant (HSC) provides funding to assist UNM Health Sciences students completing clinical rotations in underserved rural areas of New Mexico. Students may apply for up to \$1,000 (or as needed each to offset travel and housing costs). This non-competitive grant (awarded on a first-come basis) received 9 applications in Spring 2025, and all 9 applicants were funded, for a total of \$5,050.

KEY SUCCESSES

- **Completed Spring 2025 cycle:** The Grants Committee successfully administered the Spring 2025 cycle on schedule, awarding \$46,650 to 64 students across all programs.
- **Amended Grants Code implementation:** Key changes to the Grants Code (approved by GPSA Council) began implementation, notably requiring applicants to attend a grant workshop each year. Two applicant workshops were held (Feb 2025) to introduce these changes.
- **Engaged and trained reviewers:** We re-trained and engaged the Grants Committee of 23 volunteer reviewers. Each application was carefully reviewed and scored by a panel of three readers, ensuring consistency and thorough evaluation.
- **Robust applicant turnout:** Outreach efforts (listserv, website, workshops) generated strong interest – 172 applications were submitted, comparable to prior cycles (e.g., 163 apps in Summer 2024). This indicates effective promotion and continued high demand.

MAJOR CHALLENGES

- **Funding constraints:** As in past cycles, available funds could not cover all qualified applicants. For example, in Summer 2024 only 71 awards were made from 163 applications. In Spring 2025 we similarly faced a gap between high applicant demand and limited budget.
- **AwardSpring platform issues:** Some applicants experienced technical problems with the AwardSpring application portal (e.g. login errors, form submission glitches), causing delays and extra support requests.
- **Application question confusion:** Several applicants misunderstood certain application questions or formatting instructions. This led to incomplete or non-compliant submissions that required additional clarification during review. We noted the need for clearer guidance and examples on the application form.
- **Administrative implementation:** Rolling out the amended Grants Code (tracking workshop attendance, updating forms) introduced new administrative tasks. Ensuring all applicants met the new requirements added complexity to the cycle.