

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Students receiving funding through the Graduate School must be admitted to a degree-seeking program and have completed an undergraduate degree at the time of enrollment.

Departmental Assistantships

Most academic departments offer teaching or research assistantships, which pay the graduate student a stipend to help teach or conduct research. The majority of these assistantships also include full or partial tuition scholarships which will cover graduate classes. Prospective graduate students should contact their proposed departments and request information and application forms for assistantships, scholarships, and other awards.

The semester tuition scholarship for any eligible graduate assistant is limited to the full University charges for 15 graduate hours* or to the student's actual tuition costs, whichever is less.

Recipients of assistantships may also be entitled to relief from paying full nonresident tuition during the Interim and/or summer sessions, again dependent upon the FTE of their appointments.

Students whose graduate GPA falls below 3.0 after their first semester will not be allowed to hold a graduate assistantship until such time as the GPA has increased to 3.0 or better. Non-degree students or students on academic warning may not hold assistantships.

The Graduate School will provide single-coverage health insurance for each qualified assistantship, based on the FTE (Full-Time Equivalency, or number of assigned work hours) of the appointment.

Any international student who is offered a graduate assistantship is limited to a maximum workload of 20 hours per week (0.5 FTE) for all combined appointments. All non-native speakers of English who accept classroom teaching or other instructional duties must successfully complete the International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP). Students are enrolled in the ITAP by their departments.

Graduate assistants whose appointments are terminated before the end of the academic semester are eligible only for reduced tuition grants. Those assistants who resign or are dismissed from their duties before the end of the academic semester are personally responsible for the payment of any tuition and fees not covered by the reduced tuition grant. Withdrawal from classes for medical or any other reason may disqualify your assistantship for the whole semester, so please check with the Graduate School before making any withdrawal. Check The Department's Guide to the Administration of Graduate Assistantships for detailed information concerning departmental graduate assistantships.

Fellowships and Assistantships

Graduate School fellowships are designed for exceptional applicants. Unless otherwise noted, fellowships carry a service-free \$20,000 stipend for the academic year (fall and spring) plus a full out-of-state tuition scholarship for up to 15 graduate hours* for the academic year (fall and spring). The Graduate School will provide single-coverage health insurance coverage for each recipient. Nominations must be made by the student's department.

Students whose graduate GPA falls below 3.0 after their first semester will not be allowed to hold a fellowship until such time as the GPA has increased to 3.0 or better.

Fellowships and scholarships may affect a student's allowable federal financial aid. Students who receive federal financial aid should consult with the UA Office of Student Financial Aid before accepting any of the fellowships listed below.

Graduate Council Fellowships

Graduate Council Fellowships are designated for both new and current graduate students. Departments can nominate resident, non-resident, and international students in this category. Most Graduate Council Fellowships are for one year. Exceptional nominees may be considered for the following categories:

1. David A. Francko Fellowship. Up to five years of funding at \$25,000/year.
2. Capstone Graduate Council Fellowship: Fellowship funding in years one, three, and five and departmental assistantship funding in years two and four (doctoral nominees) or two years of fellowship support (master's nominees).

McNair Graduate Fellowships

McNair Graduate Fellowships are designated for both new and current graduate students. McNair Graduate Fellowships are for students who have either completed a McNair Scholars program as an undergraduate or who are McNair-eligible; i.e., a low income AND first-generation college student or a member of a group traditionally underrepresented in graduate education (Hispanic, African American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander). Preference is given to doctoral students. Following two years of support from the Graduate School, a doctoral student's home department is required to continue to support the McNair Graduate Fellow for at least an additional two years through an assistantship or equivalent. For master's students, the Graduate School will provide one year of support followed by one year of support from the student's home department. Exceptional nominees may be considered for the following additional category:

1. Capstone McNair Graduate Fellowship: Fellowship funding in years one, three, and five and departmental assistantship funding in years two and four (doctoral nominees) or two years of fellowship support (master's nominees).

National Alumni Association Fellowships

National Alumni Associate Fellowships are designated for both new and current graduate students. Departments may nominate students for National Alumni Association Fellowships. The recipient must be an Alabama resident (for tuition purposes). National Alumni Association fellowships are for one year.

Joint Faculty Development Program Fellowships

The University of Alabama Graduate School has joint programs with Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Oakwood University, and Stillman College for practicing faculty members at these institutions who do not have terminal degrees in their fields of instruction. Faculty members must be nominated for the fellowship by their home institution. Faculty who participate in this program receive support from both their home institution (to be negotiated with each institution's vice president for academic affairs) and The University of Alabama Graduate School. The Joint Faculty Development Program provides support for up to two years of full-time graduate study to allow the faculty members participating in this program to complete the majority of their required coursework.

Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars Program

The SREB Doctoral Scholars Program supports newly admitted graduate students who are seeking the PhD and planning a career in college teaching. Recipients must be a member of a group traditionally underrepresented in graduate education. SREB provides a \$20,000 annual stipend to awardees for up to three years. While the stipend is being paid, the Graduate School will provide a full out-of-state tuition scholarship for up to 15 graduate hours* for the academic year (fall and spring).

The student's home department is required to continue to support the student for at least an additional two years through an assistantship or equivalent. Support is also available for students in the final year of their program.

Scholarships

McNair Tuition Scholarships

McNair tuition scholarships are for students who have completed a McNair Undergraduate Scholars program at a US university. Past McNair Undergraduate Scholars are eligible for a tuition scholarship (for up to 15 graduate hours each semester*) if they are unable to find other funding (e.g. assistantships or fellowships) at The University of Alabama.

Alumni Heritage Graduate Scholarship

The Alumni Heritage Graduate Scholarship is aimed at recruiting children and grandchildren of graduates of The University of Alabama. This is a one time non-renewable scholarship for first-year graduate students who are Alabama residents and who are children or grandchildren of a University of Alabama graduate. Parents or grandparent must be a degree holder (undergraduate, graduate, or law degree) from The University of Alabama. The qualifying parent or grandparent must be an active member of the National Alumni Association for three of the past five years. The award will be equal to \$500 towards the cost of in-state tuition of graduate level course work (subject to a maximum of actual in-state tuition not covered by other awards, whichever is lower). The student must be admitted to a graduate degree program at UA and may be enrolled part-time or full-time.

Graduate Student Travel and Research Support Fund

These awards are available to all graduate students on a competitive basis, for presenting their research or for other research-related expenses, and are based on departmental nominations as well as department-based matching funds. For more information, students should contact their department offices, or go to the Graduate School website.

Departmental Scholarships and Grants

Many departments and divisions offer special scholarships for graduate students. Consult individual departments for a list of these scholarships and grants.

Federal Financial Aid

Students enrolled in degree programs in the Graduate School are also eligible to apply for federally supported financial aid. Further information can be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Aid.

*Graduate School tuition scholarships only cover regular (distance or on-campus) graduate level classes. Graduate School tuition scholarships do not cover Law School classes or programs with special tuition rates (for example, the Executive MBA program). Graduate School tuition does not cover any fees, books or other ancillary costs.