Graduate Division Graduate Fellowship (Block Grant) Allocation Process

Allocation history:
• < 1983: Awards made by Graduate Division to students on an *individual student* basis;
• 1983-1996: Concept of “unmet need” introduced. Block grant “dollars-per-student” established for each *division*. Allocations now made by Graduate Division to graduate programs based on annual review of *every* eligible program. Each program completed questionnaire, justifying financial need.
• 1997: Graduate Fellowship Subcommittee (GFS) created. Concept of “merit” introduced. Merit component determined by GFS. Allocations now made by Graduate Division to graduate programs based on annual review of *subset* of eligible programs.

Why the change?
• “Unmet need” calculations are out-of-date;
• In-depth institutional memory for existing process no longer exists;
• Suspicion and dissatisfaction among various graduate programs re. *perceived* lack of transparency, and inequity of allocations.
Graduate Division Graduate Fellowship (Block Grant) Allocation Process (cont’d)

Principles behind allocation methodology:

• Each program starts the annual allocation process at the same guaranteed minimum $/Student.

• Each program’s unmet need (if any) will be evaluated on an annual basis.
  – Unmet need is determined based on the program’s access to TA, GSR and fellowship /traineeship funds (a.k.a. “weighted resources”).
  – TA funds are weighted at 50% because these funds are less “valuable” from a graduate student stand-point.
  – Three-year rolling average will be used to determine program’s weighted resources to prevent excessive fluctuation.
  – Weighted resources of $35,771.50 per student (as of January 2017) is considered “sufficient” not to require additional institutional resources.
  – For every $1.00 missing in weighted resources, program will receive .20 subsidy.

• Each program will continue to receive COLA, EN growth and merit (if applicable) adjustments to its annual BG allocation.
Original Methodology Calculation

**Department A**

2016-17 BG $/Student: **$5,495** (ex. P/Y merit)

COLA: 3%

Merit: 5.00%

2017-18 $/Student: **$5,943** ($5,495 * 1.03 * 1.05)

Three-Qtr Average EN for WSF 2016: 62.8

2017-18 BG Allocation: $5,943 * 62.8 = **$373,211**
New Methodology Calculation

Assumption: All programs start with a base minimum of $X per student which represents the total prior-year BG allocation (before merit increases and unmet need subsidies) dividing evenly among all eligible students. For the purpose of this calculation, the base minimum is $4,150.

Step 1: Calculate estimated 2016-17 weighted resources (W) per student

Average TA, GSR and fellowships funds for the 3 previous fiscal years:

\[ W = \frac{1/2 \times TA + GSR + FEL}{Three-Qtr \ Avg \ EN} \]

2013-14: \( \frac{649,215}{57.3} = $11,324 \)
2014-15: \( \frac{581,658}{54.3} = $10,705 \)
2015-16: \( \frac{736,054}{58.7} = $12,546 \)

\( \frac{($11,324 + $10,705 + $12,546)}{3} = $11,525 / \text{Student} \)

\[ W = $11,525 \]

-or-

$11,525 = estimated 2016-17 non-BG department resources per student
Step 2: Calculate the 2016-17 BG subsidy

Rule: If \( W < 35,771.50 \) then \( 20\% \times (35,771.50 - W) = \text{BG Subsidy / Student} \)

In other words: Program receives an extra .20 per student for every $1.00 “missing” in weighted resources.

\[
20\% \times (35,771.50 - 11,525) = 4,849
\]

\[
4,849 + 4,150 \text{ (base minimum)} = 8,999
\]

Recommended 2016-17 $/Student Base: \$8,999

This is the starting point for the 2017-18 BG allocation calculation.
Department A

Recommended 2016-17 $/Student Base: $8,999

COLA: 3%

Merit: 5%

2017-18 $/Student: $9,732 ($8,999 * 1.03 * 1.05)

Three-Qtr Average EN for WSF 2016: 62.8

2017-18 BG Allocation: $9,732 * 62.8 = $611,196