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• “Unmet need” calculations are out-of-date;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:

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

2013-14: $649,215 / 57.3 = $11,324
2014-15: $581,658 / 54.3 = $10,705
2015-16: $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
New Methodology Calculation
(cont’d.)

**Step 2:** Calculate the 2016-17 BG subsidy

Rule: If W< $35,771.50 then 20% * ($35,771.50 – W) = BG Subsidy / Student

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

20% * ($35,771.50-$11,525) = $4,849

$4,849 + $4,150 (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