How to Fund your Graduate Education

UTEP Graduate Opportunities
Grad Program Expo Spring 2017
How to Pay for Grad School

• Be Knowledgeable and Be Savvy
• Financial Responsibility
• How is Grad School funding different from undergraduate?
• How does funding vary from program to program? Master’s? PhD? Other Doctoral?
• Knowledge Resources
How much will it cost?

- Tuition: Is it waived? In-state versus out of state. PASE students from Mexico and New Mexico border county students pay in state. Also students with TA & RA
- How high is tuition?
- Insurance?
- Cost of Living?
- Travel?
- What is the total cost?

How much will I need?
Financial Responsibility

• Have a budget **before** you start. Plan for the unexpected (not so good). Hope for the unexpected (good)

• Look at the whole picture. What will be the **total cost**? How can you add income? How can you cut costs?

• Resources: Gradsense (CGS)

http://gradsense.org/gradsense
Sources of Funding

- Government Guaranteed Loans
- Private Loans
- Assistantships
- Fellowships & Scholarships
- Grants
- Personal Funds
Government Guaranteed Loans

www.studiedaid.gov

- Eligibility criteria:
  - Admitted to institution
  - Selective Service registration
  - SSN
  - FAFSA
  - Maintain satisfactory progress
  - US Citizens & Residents Only
Student Loans

• Repayment of student loans:
  • Deferred as long as you are enrolled at least half-time
  • Deferred for six months after you cease to be enrolled half-time
  • Public service and income driven options.
Financial Aid Information

- FAFSA [https://fafsa.ed.gov/](https://fafsa.ed.gov/)
  - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- At UTEP [http://financialaid.utep.edu/](http://financialaid.utep.edu/)
Assistantships

- Student is hired to work for a professor or a program or office
- Usually 20 hours per week
- Semester/Acad. Year/whole year?
- Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant or Graduate Assistant
- Salary? Non resident tuition waiver
# UTEP Graduate Student Funding (AY 2013-2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Doctoral</th>
<th>Master's</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Business Administration</td>
<td>$277,902</td>
<td>$151,812</td>
<td>$429,714</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Education</td>
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<td>Interdisciplinary</td>
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<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>$5,867,629</td>
<td>$3,800,578</td>
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</table>

*From students' college/major*
At UTEP:

- TA/RA/GA/AI appointments are for the academic year only
- Waiver of out-of-state tuition; pay in-state rates
- Salary varies, depending on funding source and program
Fellowships

- Institutional or external
- Provide substantial support but students are not required to work as a teaching or research assistant.
- Fund are awarded, typically based on merit or need
- May be based on specific criteria
- Do not require repayment
Scholarships

- Similar to Fellowships but generally for smaller amounts. Assist students with expenses but don’t provide full support.
Scholarships and Fellowships

For example, at UTEP:

• Tom Lea Graduate Research Fellowship
• Lanward Foundation Endowed Graduate Fellowship
• Allien and Paul C. Davidson Scholarship
• Roy and Keith Chapman Scholarship
• Frank B. Cotton Estate Fund Scholarship
• Kalpana Chawla Memorial Scholarship
• George Krutilek Memorial Graduate Scholarship
Scholarships and Fellowships

At UTEP:

• Annual scholarship cycle
  Deadline: in February
  http://ia.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=ia.utep.edu/scholarships

• UTEP Grants
Externally, there are many nationally competitive fellowships:

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP)
- Fulbright US Student Program
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fellowship
- Ford Foundation Fellowships
- CONACyT
Funding opportunities databases.
Thousands of searchable options by categories:

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  [https://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/](https://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/)

- UCLA
  [https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/#](https://grad.ucla.edu/funding/#)
Institutional Funds

UTEP Grad School Example

• Dodson Research Grants
• Natalicio Dissertation Fellowship
• Travel Awards
• Summer Research Assistantships

• More than $180,000 in funds distributed each year by Graduate School through rigorous competition to support graduate student travel and research.
Important contacts:

FAFSA  https://fafsa.ed.gov/

UTEP Financial Aid  http://financialaid.utep.edu/

UTEP Scholarship Office  http://ia.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=ia.utep.edu/scholarships

Professional Development  http://graduate.utep.edu/professional-development/workshops-and-events.html

UTEP Graduate School  http://utep.edu/graduate