

Principles of Financial Support

To gain a high level of competence within their areas of specialization, graduate students must be able to work in a fully committed manner on research projects, course work, and pedagogical skills. For most students, financial support is required. Consequently, the Department of Psychology uses the following principles as a guide in developing policies concerned with financial support. Ideally, departmental policy will reflect a balance of these principles. The concepts within the principles of “completing program requirements in a timely fashion” and “adequate evaluation” are to be understood within the context of the departmental policy document “Student Evaluation Procedures.”

Principle 1. Support should enable full-time research and study.

Support for graduate students should allow all students to concentrate on research and study through provision of full-time assistantships or comparable support throughout the year.

Principle 2. Support should be secure and reasonable.

The period of full-time support for graduate students should span the time intended, by program design, to complete program requirements in a timely fashion.

Principle 3. Support should be contingent on student performance.

Principle 2 notwithstanding, continuing departmental support may depend on adequate evaluation with respect to research and scholarship, academic performance, and progress in the program.

Principle 4. Support should enable scholarly and professional development through undergraduate instruction.

Support for graduate students should reflect the importance of teaching to scholarly and professional development.

Principle 5. Support should ensure the maintenance of an appropriate program size.

Decisions about support for graduate students should enable the Department to have a continuing "critical mass" of students across areas in the Department.

Principle 6. Support should reflect excellence.

When it does not compromise Principles 1 and 2, departmental funds may be used to provide modest supplements to competitive scholarships.

Revision History

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