

needs or problems and to designate Space Grant colleges. It further directs the Administrator to establish a graduate fellowship program to provide educational assistance to qualified individuals in fields related to space, and to establish an independent committee known as the Space Grant Review Panel to review and advise the Administrator with respect to Space Grant programs.

(b) The regulations of this part do not apply to awards made by NASA under any other authority.

§ 1259.101 Definitions.

For the purposes of this part, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Field related to space* means any academic discipline or field of study (including the physical, natural and biological sciences, and engineering, space technology, education, economics, sociology, communications, planning, law, international affairs and public administration) which is concerned with or likely to improve the understanding, assessment, development and utilization of space.

(b) *Institution of higher education* means any college or university in any State which:

(1) Admits as regular students only individuals who have a certificate of graduation or equivalent from a secondary school;

(2) Is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education;

(3) Provides an educational program for which a bachelor's degree or other higher degree is awarded;

(4) Is a public or other nonprofit institution; and

(5) Is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association.

(c) *National of the United States* means a citizen of the United States or a native resident of a possession of the United States. It does not refer to or include a citizen of another country who has applied for United States citizenship.

(d) *Panel* means the Space Grant Review Panel established pursuant to section 210 of the Act.

(e) *Person* means any individual, public or private corporation, partnership

or other association or entity (including any Space Grant college, Space Grant consortium, institution of higher education, institute or laboratory), or any State, political subdivision thereof, or agency or officer of a State or political subdivision thereof.

(f) *Space* means *aeronautical and space activities* which has the meaning given to such term in section 103(1) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2452).

(g) *Space Grant college* means any public or private institution of higher education which is designated as such by the Administrator or designee pursuant to section 208 of the Act.

(h) *Space Grant regional consortium* means any association or other alliance which is designated as such by the Administrator or designee pursuant to section 208 of the Act.

(i) *Space Grant program* means any program which:

(1) Is administered by any Space Grant college, Space Grant regional consortium, institution of higher education, institute, laboratory or State or local agency; and

(2) Includes two or more projects involving education and one or more of the following activities in the fields related to space:

- (i) Research;
- (ii) Training; or
- (iii) Advisory services.

(j) *Space Grant program award* means any award contemplated under section 206(a) of the Act.

(k) *Special Space Grant program award* means any award extended under section 206(b) of the Act.

(l) *Specific national need grant* means any award extended under section 207 of the Act.

(m) *State* means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(n) *State Space Grant cooperating institution* means any institution of higher education in a State which does not have a designated Space Grant college that is named by the Administrator or designee to provide selected Space

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Grant program functions within that State.

§ 1259.102 General policy.

(a) In accordance with subsections 103(a)(2) and (3) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 2457(a)(3)), it is NASA's policy, through various educational programs, to provide direct support for and encouragement to teachers, students and prospective students in fields related to space.

(b) In compliance with the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Act (42 U.S.C. 2486), it shall be NASA's purpose to:

(1) Increase the understanding, assessment, development and utilization of space resources by promoting a strong educational base, responsive research and training activities and broad and prompt dissemination of knowledge and techniques;

(2) Utilize the abilities and talents of the universities of the Nation to support and contribute to the exploration and development of the resources and opportunities afforded by the space environment;

(3) Encourage and support the existence of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programs of space research, to engage in activities of training (including teacher education), research and public service and to have cooperative programs with industry;

(4) Encourage and support the existence of consortia, composed of university and industry members, to advance the exploration and development of space resources in cases in which national objectives can be better fulfilled than through the programs of single universities;

(5) Encourage and support Federal funding for graduate fellowships in fields related to space;

(6) Support activities in colleges and universities generally for the purpose of creating and operating a network of institutional programs that will enhance achievements resulting from efforts under this Act; and

(7) Encourage cooperation and coordination among Federal agencies and Federal programs concerned with space issues.

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(c) It shall be NASA's policy to designate Space Grant colleges, State Space Grant cooperating institutions and Space Grant regional consortia and award fellowships, grants, contracts and other transactions competitively in a merit-based review process.

(d) It shall be NASA's policy to designate and make awards without discriminating on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin or handicap.

§ 1259.103 Special authorities—gift acceptance and other Federal funding.

(a) *Acceptance of gifts:*

(1) In order to carry out the provisions of the Act, the Administrator is authorized to accept conditional or unconditional gifts or donations of services, money or property, real, personal or mixed, tangible or intangible. This authority is delegated to the Director, Educational Affairs Division.

(2) The Administrator or designee may decline any gift or donation that the Administrator determines is not in accord with the purposes of the program. Also, conditional gifts or donations that are not in compliance with the Act or the implementing regulations shall be declined. NASA may use a reasonable amount from a gift or donation to cover any administrative costs associated with such gift or donation.

(b) *Acceptance and use of funds from other Federal agencies:*

(1) To carry out the provisions of the Act, the Administrator is authorized to accept and use funds from other Federal departments, agencies and instrumentalities to pay for awards under this program. This authority is delegated to the Director, Educational Affairs Division.

(2) The Administrator or designee may decline any such funds when the Administrator determines acceptance would not be in accord with the purposes of the program. NASA may use a reasonable amount from transferred Federal funds to cover any administrative costs associated with such transfer.