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*Strategies for
Funding Success*

ADVANCING TO A HIGHER DEGREE
COMMUNITY • KNOWLEDGE • DISCOVERY

Identifying Funding Opportunities

Strategy: Learn the process

The first step in securing funding for graduate study is acquainting yourself with the funding process.

Timeline

Start early! Be cognizant of timeliness associated with the different types of funding opportunities. Fellowship competitions begin approximately one year prior to the academic year the funding is required.

Types of Funding Opportunities

A variety of different types of funding opportunities are available to finance graduate study. A few of the common funding types include:

- Fellowship
- Award
- Training grant
- Scholarship
- Assistantship
- Travel grant

Sources of Funding Opportunities

- Government agencies – federal, state, or local agencies provide funding often directed to research addressing societal issues or training needs of graduate students
- Foundations – opportunities usually are directed to specific interests or priorities identified by the foundation
- University - opportunities exist through a department, school, or the Graduate School

Search Tools

The Graduate School maintains a database of various internal and external funding opportunities available for graduate students.

Graduate School Funding Database
www.gradschool.purdue.edu/funding



Applying for Funding

Strategy: Utilize campus resources

Once an opportunity has been identified, Purdue offers many workshops and resources to assist students in the application process.

Workshops

The Graduate School maintains a database of workshops designed specifically for graduate students. For a complete listing of workshops visit www.gradschool.purdue.edu/profdev.

Resources

The following offices assist graduate students in the funding process through workshops or individual appointments.

- Center for Career Opportunities (CCO)
- Division of Financial Aid (DFA)
- Graduate School Fellowship Office (GSFO)
- Office of the Vice Provost for Research (VPR)
- Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Evaluating Funding Offers

Strategy: Reflect upon career goals

Financial offers vary based upon type and source of funding. Evaluate the funding offer based upon financial components and how the offer contributes to your career goals.

Components of a financial offer:

- Type of support – fellowship, assistantship, training grant
- Financial elements
 - amount of stipend (in relation to the cost of living for the area)
 - percent of tuition and fees covered
 - additional benefits (medical insurance allowance, supply and expense funds, etc.)
- Duration of support (tenure of award, renewal conditions)
- Expectations (academic, time commitment, and extracurricular expectations with the award)

Funding Strategies

When applying for fellowships and other funding opportunities, several strategies exist to assist in the development of a successful fellowship application package.

The Application

- Read the application carefully to determine the purpose of the funding and direct your application to this intent.
- Plan the project; identify the resources needed and available; schedule appointments with the people or offices available for assistance.
- Develop a timeline to complete all the components of the application package.
- Read the instructions carefully and complete the application as instructed.

The References

- Select faculty who are willing and appropriate to provide a reference based upon the program announcement.
- Communicate the procedures for submitting the reference.
- Provide a copy of your CV and the program announcement to the faculty member when requesting a reference, noting the items to be highlighted by the reference.
- State the deadline for submitting the reference.
- Send a thank you note to the faculty member a few days prior to the stated deadline.

The Essay

- Read the question or statement, determine the intent of the question, and identify the key components.
- Compose your response, directing your experience and skills to the intent of the essay. Place the emphasis on the impact of the experiences, not simply a listing of accomplishments.
- Edit the essay ensuring that all elements of the question have been addressed.
- Visit the Online Writing Lab (OWL) for assistance in grammar and composition.

The CV/Resumé

- Attend professional development workshops for career and skill development.
- Review your CV with the Center for Career Opportunities.
- Format the CV based on the intent and purpose of the fellowship.

The Research Proposal

- Work with a faculty member to develop the research proposal if one is requested.
- Edit the research proposal for technical content as well as grammar.
- Attend grant writing workshops hosted by The Graduate School and the Office of the Vice Provost for Research.

Financial Aid

- Consult with the Division of Financial Aid to determine what financial information is needed and for assistance in completing the forms.