

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 151

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

This document may incorporate amendments proposed by a committee, but not yet adopted, as well as amendments that have been adopted during the current legislative session. The document is a tool to show amendments in context and cannot be used for the purpose of adding amendments to legislation.

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP ACT TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-21G-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 111, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21G-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Graduate Scholarship Act:

.225025.3AIC February 15, 2023 (5:02pm)

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A. "academic year" means any consecutive period of two semesters [~~three quarters~~] or other comparable units [~~commencing with the fall term each year~~];

B. "award recipient" means a student awarded a graduate scholarship;

C. "department" means the higher education department;

D. "eligible institution" means any graduate-degree-granting state university in New Mexico accredited by the [~~north central association of colleges and secondary schools~~] higher learning commission;

E. "graduate and professional field" means any program of study intended to result in a master's or doctoral degree, excluding [~~the degree in medicine~~] a doctor of medicine, juris doctor and nursing SEC→~~degree~~←SEC
SEC→~~degrees~~←SEC other than a doctor of nursing practice; and

F. "groups underrepresented in graduate education" means women, minorities, persons with a visual impairment or other physical disability and other groups who have traditionally been underrepresented in the specific area of graduate study or profession for which the scholarship is awarded."

SECTION 2. Section 21-21G-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 111, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21G-5. CONDITIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR ELIGIBILITY.--

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Priority will be given to [~~New Mexico students from those groups with the most severe underrepresentation and~~] students who are New Mexico residents with the greatest financial need ~~SEC→.~~←SEC SEC→~~and students from those groups underrepresented in graduate~~←SEC SEC→~~education.~~←SEC A scholarship may be awarded to an individual who:

A. [~~is a citizen of the United States or who has a permanent resident visa~~] has earned a bachelor's degree from an eligible institution and maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale or who holds a paid position supporting faculty teaching or research activities;

B. has met the admission requirements, [~~and~~] is accepted for enrollment [~~as a full-time student in an underrepresented~~] and enrolls in at least six credit hours in a graduate or professional field of study, as determined by the institution;

C. has complied with all the rules [~~and regulations~~] adopted by the [~~commission~~] department for award of the scholarship and the provisions regarding the administration of state graduate scholarships adopted pursuant to the Graduate Scholarship Act; and

~~[D. agrees to serve in an unpaid internship or assistantship at the eligible institution, a government agency or private industry approved by his major department for ten hours per week during the academic year]~~

D. agrees to serve the eligible institution during the academic year in an internship or assistantship by working at the eligible institution, a government agency or a private

industry approved by the individual's major department."

SECTION 3. Section 21-21G-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 111, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21G-6. CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.--

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, a scholarship may be reawarded to a student who:

~~[A.]~~ (1) has been an award recipient of a New Mexico graduate scholarship the previous year;

~~[B.]~~ (2) remains in good academic standing as determined by the institution and maintains a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;

~~[C.]~~ (3) is enrolled ~~[as a full-time graduate student as determined by the institution;~~

~~D. is pursuing the second year of a master's degree or the second or third year of a doctoral degree; and~~

~~E. agrees to serve in an unpaid internship or assistantship at the eligible institution, a government agency or private industry approved by his major department for ten hours per week during the academic year]~~ in at least six credit hours in a graduate or professional field of study; and

(4) agrees to serve the eligible institution during the academic year in an internship or assistantship by working at the eligible institution, a government agency or a private industry approved by the student's major department.

B. A graduate scholarship shall not be granted on

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behalf of an award recipient who has received the graduate scholarship for four semesters."

SECTION 4. Section 21-21G-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 111, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21G-7. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--~~[Scholarship awards shall be for seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200) per year to be disbursed in equal installments over the period of an academic year.]~~ Scholarship award amounts shall not exceed one hundred percent of tuition and fees for the graduate or professional program at the eligible institution."

SECTION 5. Section 21-21G-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 111, Section 10, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21G-10. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--A scholarship is terminated upon the occurrence of:

A. withdrawal from the institution by the award recipient or failure to reenroll for consecutive academic years ~~[or failure to be a full-time graduate student];~~ or

B. substantial noncompliance by the award recipient with the Graduate Scholarship Act or the rules ~~[regulations]~~ or procedures promulgated by the ~~[commission]~~ department."

SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.--Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the higher education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2024 to fund the Graduate Scholarship Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2024 shall revert to the general fund.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.

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