

LFC Requester:	Jorgensen
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO

AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov

(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 24 January 2025 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB68 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Pope **Agency Name and Code:** NM Independent Community Colleges 994
Short Title: Graduate Scholarship Act Changes **Person Writing:** Vanessa K. Hawker
Title: Changes **Phone:** _____ **Email:** vhawker@hawkerhynson.com

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to: HB89

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 68 (SB68) amends the graduate scholarship act requiring award recipients:

- to be New Mexico residents,
- provides priority to students who are from groups underrepresented in graduate education,
- have earned a bachelor’s degree with a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale or is employed by a higher education institution in a position supporting faculty in either teaching or research activities,
- be enrolled in at least 6 credit hours
- and comply with rules adopted by the higher education department.

So long as the scholarship recipient maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, the recipient can continue to receive the scholarship until the recipient receives a terminal degree or has

received 8 semesters of the graduate scholarship, whichever occurs first.

SB68 sets the graduate scholarship award amount to not exceed 100% of tuition and fees for the graduate program at their institution.

The graduate scholarship is terminated if the student fails to maintain the required GPA and other scholarship qualifications.

SB68 also cleans up statutory language.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB68 does not contain an appropriation. It amends the qualifications for the graduate scholarship act.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SB68 contains statutory cleanup and amends qualifications for graduate scholarships. This bill removes the unpaid internship or assistant requirement.

RELATIONSHIP

SB68 and HB89 address the same sections of statute. While the bills are not duplicates, they appear to be similar in their desired result.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB68 does not apply to most NMICC institutions. Of all 11 institutions, only WNMU offers graduate degrees.