

1 AN ACT
2 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING THE GRADUATE
3 SCHOLARSHIP ACT; CHANGING ELIGIBILITY; INCREASING AWARDS.
4

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

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

8 "21-21G-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Graduate
9 Scholarship Act:

10 A. "academic year" means the consecutive period of
11 two semesters or other comparable units commencing with the
12 fall term each year;

13 B. "award recipient" means a student who is a New
14 Mexico resident and is awarded a graduate scholarship;

15 C. "department" means the higher education
16 department;

17 D. "eligible institution" means a graduate-degree-
18 granting state university enumerated in Article 12, Section
19 11 of the constitution of New Mexico and accredited by the
20 higher learning commission;

21 E. "graduate field" means a program of study
22 intended to result in a master's or doctoral degree,
23 excluding a doctor of medicine; and

24 F. "groups underrepresented in graduate education"
25 means women, minorities, persons with a visual impairment or

1 other physical disability and other groups that have
2 traditionally been underrepresented in the specific area of
3 graduate study or profession for which the scholarship is
4 awarded."

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

7 "21-21G-5. CONDITIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR ELIGIBILITY.--

8 A. Priority shall be given to New Mexico students
9 who are New Mexico residents with the greatest financial need
10 and students who are residents from groups underrepresented
11 in graduate education.

12 B. A scholarship may be awarded to a New Mexico
13 resident who has:

14 (1) earned a bachelor's degree and
15 maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0
16 scale or who holds a paid position supporting faculty
17 teaching or research activities;

18 (2) met the admission requirements, is
19 accepted for enrollment and enrolls in at least six credit
20 hours in a graduate field of study; and

21 (3) complied with all the rules adopted by
22 the department for award of the scholarship and the
23 provisions regarding the administration of the graduate
24 scholarship program."

25 SECTION 3. Section 21-21G-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, HB 89
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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 re-awarded to a student who:

(1) was an award recipient the previous year;

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

(3) is enrolled in at least six credit hours in a graduate field of study.

B. A graduate scholarship may be granted until the award recipient either receives a terminal degree or has qualified and received eight semesters of scholarship, whichever occurs first."

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 award amounts shall not exceed one hundred percent of tuition and fees for the graduate program at the eligible institution for the academic year; provided that the department shall fund only one semester at a time and shall not fund the second semester of the academic year if the student does not enroll for that semester or does not otherwise maintain eligibility."

1 SECTION 5. Section 21-21G-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
2 1988, Chapter 111, Section 10, as amended) is amended to
3 read:

4 "21-21G-10. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--A scholarship
5 is terminated upon the occurrence of:

6 A. withdrawal from the eligible institution by the
7 award recipient or failure to reenroll for consecutive
8 academic semesters;

9 B. failure to maintain the required grade point
10 average and other qualifications for the scholarship; or

11 C. substantial noncompliance by the award
12 recipient with the Graduate Scholarship Act or the rules or
13 procedures promulgated by the department in accordance with
14 that act."

15 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
16 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025. _____

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