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| LFC Requester: | Connor Jorgensen |
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 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: 27 Jan 2026 *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB 106 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

Sponsor: Sen. Harold Pope **Agency Name and Code** University of New Mexico-952
Short Title: Graduate Scholarship Act Funding **Number:** _____
Person Writing Lenaya Montoya
Phone: 5754187595 **Email** lenayamontoya@unm.edu

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY26 | FY27 | | |
| | \$5,000.00 | Non | General Fund |
| | | | |

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

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

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

SB 106 appropriates five million dollars from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) to carry out the purposes of the Graduate Scholarship Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill would authorize a ten-fold increase in the allocation for HED scholarships from the Graduate Scholarship Act to New Mexico residents in graduate programs, helping to address substantial unmet need across the state.

At UNM, the number of Graduate Scholarship applications massively exceeds the funding available from HED. For 2025-26, we saw these numbers:

- 2,615 students met eligibility criteria
- 629 applications received (24% of all eligible students)
- 24 scholarships awarded (4% of applicants; 1% of eligible students)
 - o 13 full scholarships: full tuition/fees, for students with no other funding
 - o 11 partial scholarships: supplemental funds for tuition/fee balance, after other funding

We estimate that our institutional allocation (\$190,000 annually) allows us to provide full scholarships for approximately 15-20 students, depending on their individual tuition amounts. A ten-fold increase would bring this number up to 150-200 students receiving full scholarships, and potentially many more getting smaller amounts as partial scholarships. Even with this increase, we would be meeting just above one third of the need indicated by our 2025-26 application numbers. (According to our records, ~2,500 students at UNM meet the scholarship eligibility criteria, and approximately 25% of those eligible applied for awards.)

NOTE: Graduate tuition amounts vary substantially at UNM depending on the student's college and on how many credit hours they register for. Bills for graduate tuition at UNM can range from \$8K/year to over \$20K/year. Graduate Scholarships pay up to the full amount of tuition (not including differential tuition or fees), so we cannot perfectly predict the number of awards available in any given semester/year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill increases the funding appropriation for the Graduate Scholarship Act without changing any rules for how funds are allocated across institutions of higher education, for how eligibility is defined, or for the distribution of scholarship awards for individual students. This may cause some administrative burden at HED.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If the bill is not enacted, the existing Graduate Scholarship program will continue to meet an estimated 4% of need for graduate students at UNM.

AMENDMENTS

Responses received by:

Graduate Studies Department

Student Financial Aid Office

Graduate and Professional Student Association