Graduate Student Funding

What Assistant, Associate Deans, and Deans Need to Know

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Dean, The Graduate School
Florida State University
What is on the minds of deans?

- Securing funds for stipends and research were identified by 51% and 46% of deans as a major concern at doctoral and public institutions in the CGS Pressing Issues Survey 2016.
  - In 2016 recruitment and enrollment management were the top concerns overall, but particularly at master’s specialized institutions and private not for profits.
"10 Ways to Avoid Student Loan Debt"
Money for What?

- Living expenses
  - Rent
  - Food
  - Personal
- Books
- Research, travel
- Health insurance
- Tuition & fees

Stipend or fellowship
Are your offers in the ballpark?
Stipend Surveys - Duty

- Chronicle survey 2008-2009
- American Association of Universities Data Exchange (AAUDE) - Annual Survey of Graduate Assistant Stipends
- Oklahoma State University Graduate Assistant Stipend Survey (2014-2015); every year
Fellowships – Non-duty

- Full cost; single vs multi year
- Supplements to assistantships
- University vs college vs department level
Benchmarking

• Survey of Earned Doctorates
  – Sponsored by 6 federal agencies
  – Doctorate Recipients from US Universities: 2014;

• National Center for Education Statistics
  – http://nces.ed.gov
  – NPSAS:12 (National Postsecondary Student Aid Survey)
SURVEY OF EARNED DOCTORATES
Primary source of financial support: 2004–14

Primary source of financial support, by field of study: 2014

Percent

- Other sources
- Own resources
- Fellowship or grant
- Research assistantship
- Teaching assistantship

Graduate education-related debt, by field of study: 2014

Median time-to-degree, by college generation and field of study: 2010–14

NOTE: Time-to-degree is total time elapsed from graduate entry to doctorate.
Median time to degree, by fields of study: 1994–2014

Years (graduate school entry to doctorate)

Doctorate recipients with cumulative education-related debt, by college generation: 1994–2014

Percent


First generation

Second or later generation

Graduate education-related debt greater than $30,000, by college generation, degree field category, and type of doctoral institution: 2014

Percent

First generation
Second or later generation

National Landscape

• 2011-2012 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study (NPSAS:12) conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics

• 2011-2012
  – 4 million students enrolled in graduate degree programs in US
  – Types of aid for graduate students
    • Grants/fellowships
    • Federal loans (Direct unsubsidized, PLUS)
    • Assistantships
### Table 9.
**Percentage of graduate students receiving selected types of financial aid, by type of institution, graduate program, attendance pattern, and income level: 2011–12**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of institution and student characteristics</th>
<th>Any aid</th>
<th>Any grants</th>
<th>Employer aid</th>
<th>Total assistantships</th>
<th>Any loans</th>
<th>Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loans</th>
<th>Direct PLUS Loans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>45.1</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>9.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type of institution</strong></td>
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<td>Public 4-year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-doctorate-granting</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate-granting</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>18.9</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>36.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private nonprofit 4-year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-doctorate-granting</td>
<td>65.6</td>
<td>34.6</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>46.9</td>
<td>43.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate-granting</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>38.0</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>16.4</td>
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<td>Private for-profit 4-year</td>
<td>75.7</td>
<td>20.7</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>‡</td>
<td>58.7</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>5.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than one institution</td>
<td>77.4</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>10.9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Master's degree</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctor's degree - research/scholarship</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>22.6</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>24.9</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 10. Average amounts of selected types of financial aid received by graduate students, by type of institution, graduate program, attendance pattern, and income level: 2011–12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of institution and student characteristics</th>
<th>Grants</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>Student loans</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any aid</td>
<td>Any grants</td>
<td>Employer aid</td>
<td>Total assistantships</td>
<td>Any loans</td>
<td>Any subsidized or unsubsidized loans</td>
<td>Direct PLUS Loans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$22,000</td>
<td>$10,800</td>
<td>$8,200</td>
<td>$14,600</td>
<td>$21,400</td>
<td>$17,000</td>
<td>$18,600</td>
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<td>Type of institution</td>
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<td>Public 4-year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-doctorate-granting</td>
<td>11,600</td>
<td>5,100</td>
<td>3,800</td>
<td>7,800</td>
<td>11,800</td>
<td>12,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate-granting</td>
<td>21,300</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>19,600</td>
<td>16,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-doctorate-granting</td>
<td>15,200</td>
<td>6,300</td>
<td>5,600</td>
<td>8,200</td>
<td>15,700</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>14,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctorate-granting</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>15,900</td>
<td>27,500</td>
<td>19,300</td>
<td>22,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>17,000</td>
<td>7,900</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>10,900</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>14,800</td>
<td>16,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doctor’s degree - research/scholarship</td>
<td>32,000</td>
<td>21,000</td>
<td>14,700</td>
<td>19,100</td>
<td>18,400</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>16,000</td>
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<td>Attendance pattern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time/full-year</td>
<td>31,500</td>
<td>15,200</td>
<td>13,300</td>
<td>15,600</td>
<td>27,400</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,200</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Part-time or part-year</td>
<td>13,900</td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>6,400</td>
<td>12,700</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>13,700</td>
<td>13,400</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Loan Programs

• Federal (https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/)
  – Low interest; flexible repayment terms
  – Advise students to exhaust federal loan options before seeking private loans

• Private
  – From a bank or other lender
  – Credit checks
Budget Control Act of 2011

• Since July 1, 2012
  – Graduate students can only receive unsubsidized Stafford loans; interest begins accumulating while in school
Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013

- Ties interest rates to the markets
- Rate locked in for the life of the loan
- Graduate Stafford loans are capped at 9.5%
- Graduate PLUS loans are capped at 10.5%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Loan Program</th>
<th>Loan Details (subject to change)</th>
<th>Annual Award (subject to change)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Perkins Loan</td>
<td>• For undergraduate and graduate students &lt;br&gt; • Eligibility depends on student’s financial need and availability of funds at the college &lt;br&gt; • Interest rate is 5% &lt;br&gt; • College is the lender; payment is owed to the college that made the loan</td>
<td>Undergraduate students: up to $5,500; graduate and professional students: up to $8,000 &lt;br&gt; Total amount may not exceed $27,500 for undergraduates and $60,000 for graduate students (including amounts borrowed as an undergraduate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Subsidized Loan</td>
<td>• For undergraduate students who are enrolled at least half-time* and demonstrate financial need &lt;br&gt; • Loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015, interest rate is 4.66% &lt;br&gt; • Student is not usually charged interest on the loan during certain periods &lt;br&gt; • The U.S. Department of Education (ED) is the lender; payment is owed to ED</td>
<td>$3,500–$5,500, depending on grade level &lt;br&gt; For total lifetime limit, go to StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Loan Program</td>
<td>Loan Details (subject to change)</td>
<td>Annual Award (subject to change)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Direct Unsubsidized Loan** | • For undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled at least half-time; financial need is not required  
  • For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015:  
    ◦ 4.66% interest rate for undergraduate students, and  
    ◦ 6.21% interest rate for graduate and professional students  
  • Student is responsible for interest during all periods  
  • ED is the lender; payment is owed to ED | $5,500–$20,500 (less any subsidized amounts received for same period), depending on grade level and dependency status  
For total lifetime limit, go to StudentAid.gov/sub-unsub |
| Stafford                     |                                                                                                  |                                                                                                 |
| **Direct PLUS Loan**         | • For parents of dependent undergraduate students and for graduate or professional students; financial need is not required  
  • Student must be enrolled at least half-time and must be either a dependent undergraduate student for whom a parent is taking out a Direct PLUS Loan or a graduate or professional student who is receiving a Direct PLUS Loan  
  • For loans first disbursed on or after July 1, 2014, and before July 1, 2015, interest rate is 7.21%  
  • Borrower must not have negative credit history  
  • Borrower is responsible for interest during all periods  
  • ED is the lender; payment is owed to ED | Maximum amount is cost of attendance minus any other financial aid student receives; no minimum amount |

July 2014
Pubic loan forgiveness

• Must be employed full time in an eligible public service or non profit job, and you must have made 120 eligible on-time payments in no less than 10 years
What is Your COA?

• Cost of attendance
  – How is this determined at your institution?
  – Who determines COA?
• Who is in charge of Financial Aid?
• How are stipend levels determined?
  – How do your stipends compare across the institution and nationally?
Questions to ask

• How are teaching assistantships determined and funded?
  – Centrally or by program/college?
  – Master’s and doctoral
  – Maximum number of years?

• Tuition remission/waivers
  – Part of the offer of an assistantship?
  – Instate and out of state?
  – Minimum FTE appointment?

• Health insurance
  – Full or partial subsidy?
  – Who is eligible?

• Additional fees? Who pays?
Questions to ask

• Research assistantships
  – When paid by grants is tuition and health insurance charged to the grant?
  – Is university money used to support students as RAs?
Types and Sources of Support

- Assistantships
- Fellowships
- Grants, awards
- Crowdfunding
- Loans

- Internal
  - Graduate School
  - Departments/colleges
  - Financial Aid

- External
  - Government
  - Private foundations
  - Industry

http://www.gradschools.com/financial-aid/graduate-fellowships-scholarships/fellowships-for-graduate-students
Tax issues

• Taxation of graduate-level tuition benefits
  – Above $5,250 is to be recorded as income and subject to withholding
  – Exception for graduate students conducting teaching or research (generally TAs and RAs)
What students want and need to know

• Admission vs appointment letter
  – Who is authorized to sign?
• Appointment letter should provide details of appointment
  – Stipend, FTE
  – Benefits (tuition, health supplement)
  – Supervisor
  – Start and end dates
  – Duties
• What about multiple appointments as it relates to ACA and the 30 hour rule?
Promote Financial Literacy
STUDENT LOAN CRISIS?

DEFAULT RATES FOR
STUDENT LOANS AT RECORD HIGH

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY - THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
Enhancing Student Financial Education

Today’s graduate and undergraduate students are in a much different place financially than previous generations of students. In 2012, total student debt for the first time exceeded $1 trillion. Rising debt levels can cause some students to defer graduate study or to decide that a graduate degree is not for them. At a time when public funding for education is decreasing and student debt is rising, more students are taking on debt to support their educational aspirations.

To help students learn how to successfully manage their finances and educational costs, the Council of Graduate Schools, funded by a grant from TIAA-CREF, a leading financial services organization with a long history of serving those in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields, has launched a three-year project to enhance the financial literacy of graduate and undergraduate students.

Project Goals

Participating colleges and universities will design programs that prepare students to play an active role in managing their personal finances and making informed decisions about saving, spending, and borrowing. The institutions will address the needs of different groups of students, while considering factors such as their field of study, degree levels, and chosen career pathways, each of which has significant financial ramifications. CGS and partnering

http://cgsnet.org/enhancing-student-financial-education
The future you envision is within your reach. Planning ahead can help get you there.

http://www.gradsense.org/gradsense
Questions?

Hey, is your grant funded by the government?
Yeah, you?
My fellowship is. Did you get a lot of work done today?
Some, not much. Why?
I just realized, when people pay their taxes this year, they're essentially paying for our stipends.

Your tax dollars at work.

Jorge Cham © 2010

www.phdcomics.com
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