



Priming Tax Policies to Support Graduate Education

PRIORITIES

- ▶ Simplify and enhance **tax credits** (e.g., the American Opportunity Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit) so that they are more navigable for students and families, and ensure the benefits can be used towards graduate education.
- ▶ Strengthen employers' ability to provide **tax-exempt tuition assistance**, by expanding monetary limits and allow it to include student loan repayment (e.g., Sec. 117).
- ▶ Ensure tax policies support **charitable giving** (e.g., deductions) and maximize the utility of **endowments**, which allow academic institutions to fulfill their missions.
- ▶ Continue to exclude current tuition waivers and remissions from being included as **taxable income**, and exclude future grant aid to students from being income taxable.

RATIONALE

Certain provisions within the U.S. tax code directly affect the ability of employees to pursue a graduate degree as well as the ability of employers to invest in their employees' education. These credits and deductions can serve as powerful tools for recruitment and retention of employees, help cultivate a highly-educated and skilled U.S. workforce.

