



ETS/CGS Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admissions through Completion

Educational Testing Service and the Council of Graduate Schools are pleased to announce the *Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admissions through Completion*. This program recognizes promising efforts in initiating or scaling up innovations in graduate education that occur from admission through successful completion of a degree program. It is designed to link innovative admissions practices with other institutional practices including, but not limited to, mentoring, support programs, intellectual enrichment, and social support, that will improve student success once students are enrolled in their graduate programs. This award program is especially interested in encouraging innovations that promise to improve the success of a inclusive student population.

Institutions may propose projects that address all points in the student life cycle, from admission to completion, or focus on a particular stage or stages in a student's progression to degree completion. The selection committee will evaluate proposals on the following criteria: the degree of innovation in the institution's approach; the extent of institutional collaboration and commitment; the source of the institution's match (limited to graduate unit versus including multiple units); the sustainability plan; the project's potential for replicability; likely breadth of impact; and the likely efficacy of the proposed budget.

Purpose

To provide support in the form of a matching grant to one institution per academic year for the purpose of effecting institutional changes that result in enhancing student success from admission through completion of programs at the master's or doctoral level. The competition will consider either start-up efforts or efforts to expand or deepen existing initiatives to enhance or improve success.

Proposals

The proposal should describe the strategies to be implemented and the institutional analysis that the graduate school has undertaken to arrive at those strategies.

Each proposal should also address the impact of this intervention on increasing inclusiveness in graduate education.

Eligibility

All member institutions of CGS will be eligible to apply for this award. Institutions that have won the award previously are eligible to apply again after a 10-year period.

The grant proposal must be submitted by the principal graduate representative of the institution (typically, the graduate dean or IHE1) and endorsed by the institution's chief academic officer or president. The principal graduate representative at the institution must have oversight of the proposed initiatives. Applications involving more than one institution are acceptable.

Award

Each award shall be for \$20,000 over a two-year period, an amount to be matched by \$10,000 from the selected institution. The contribution may be in-kind but must be specified in the application.

Timeline of Award

Two years, beginning January 2026.

Policy Concerning Indirect Costs

Indirect costs are not considered part of the *Award for Innovation in Promoting Success in Graduate Education: From Admissions through Completion*. The funders do not pay overhead in connection with this award.

Guidelines

Submit electronically as a PDF which contains (in order) a letter of application, attachments, and letter of endorsement. The document should not exceed six pages total and should include:

1. Description of how proposed institutional changes are expected to promote success in graduate education.
2. Description of the problem analysis that led to the development of the strategy proposed.
3. Discussion of the metrics to be used for assessing success of the program.
4. Two-year budget that reflects the full amount of the award and the match.
5. Description of plans to sustain the initiative beyond the funding provided by the grant.
6. Letter of endorsement from the institution's chief academic officer or president.
7. Winner must agree to submit a final report to CGS in a form to be published in a series of case studies of "best-practices" in ensuring success in graduate education.

Award Presentation

The award program will be announced through a broadcast email and an announcement in the *GradEdge*. The award will be made at the **CGS Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, December 4, 2025, in Washington, DC.**

Deadline

An application must be submitted as a PDF electronically by **September 5, 2025**. Send applications to president@cgs.nche.edu.