



Funding Request Form FY2021

Department should complete one form for each individual request

Department:

Graduate and Professional Student
 Government (GPSG)

Program, Service or Operation Requested:

Graduate Student Travel Awards

General Description:

Applying for travel awards has been an opportunity for graduate students since 2009. They were applying for \$500 to help support their research travel. There were over 200 applications, but only 10% were able to be awarded some money. There has been an increase in the number of students who have applied for awards. Graduate students travel to various conferences to represent Texas A&M University and their respective departments. Helping support graduate students' travel can help spread what Texas A&M is doing in research and also give the opportunity for graduate student to present their current research and gain professional development skills they will need later in their career.

Request Type:

- Full Increase One-Time Partial/Matching

Type of Funds Requested:

- UAF Other

General Questions

How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?

Travel awards help students be able to fund attending conferences and presenting their research. Students have said they are not attending conferences due to limited funding. The 2018-2019 year, 335 students applied and 31 won awards. This is only 9.3% of the total number of students who applied. The increase in funds will allow for more students to be partially funded. There has been a steady increase for the amount requested each quarter. Travel awards are offered throughout the year, and GPSG wants to help the greatest number of students possible.

What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?

This additional funding will help increase the number of students who are able to present their research at conferences. If we are not funded, it will limit the number of students GPSG will be able to support and fund in their travels, each year there is an increase in applications.

GPSG wants to help and empower as many graduate students as possible to attend conferences, experience networking, and present their research. Attending conferences is a requirement for most graduate degrees, and with graduate students having limited funding, it is more difficult for some graduate students to meet this requirement. Furthermore, presenting research at a conference helps raise the reputation of a program at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.

In the 2018-2019 year, we had a total of 335 students apply for travel awards. Of that 335, only 31 students were awarded funds. Beginning in Fall 2013 there were 20 applicants so this has increased significantly over the years. We have also noticed that since 2009 there has been a 0% increase in travel funds, but an increase in the graduate student population. We are wanting to be able to empower as many students as we can to present their research or attend conferences.

What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?

We have asked the graduate student body when they need funds the most and have split the current amount of money to reflect the needs to each time. Students mentioned the fall was when they were travelling more, so we have given a larger percentage of the money to be awarded for the fall travel. We are conversing with graduate students to understand where there is the highest need and adjusting in order to emphasize funds where they have the most need.

If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?

We reach out to award winners and have then report back how attending conferences has helped them with professional development and being able to present their current research. We have started this process for past award winners to help us measure the success of being able to grant travel awards.

Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.

We have reached out to the Vice President of Research (VPR) in 2018. We noticed that since 2009 there has been a 0% increase in funding, and we plan to reach out to external sponsors to try and help raise the amount we can award to students.

Total Estimated Cost

Funding Description	Amount
Travel Awards	\$10,000
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED	\$ 10,000