

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE BILL 89

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Dayan Hochman-Vigil

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING THE GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP ACT; CHANGING ELIGIBILITY; INCREASING AWARDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-21G-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988, Chapter 111, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"21-21G-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Graduate Scholarship Act:

A. "academic year" means ~~[any]~~ the consecutive period of two semesters ~~[three quarters]~~ or other comparable units commencing with the fall term each year;

B. "award recipient" means a student who is a New Mexico resident and is awarded a graduate scholarship;

C. "department" means the higher education department;

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 D. "eligible institution" means ~~[any]~~ a graduate-
2 degree-granting state university enumerated in Article 12,
3 Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico and accredited by
4 the ~~[north central association of colleges and secondary~~
5 ~~schools]~~ higher learning commission;

6 E. "graduate ~~[and professional]~~ field" means ~~[any]~~
7 a program of study intended to result in a master's or doctoral
8 degree, excluding ~~[the degree in]~~ a doctor of medicine; and

9 F. "groups underrepresented in graduate education"
10 means women, minorities, persons with a visual impairment or
11 other physical disability and other groups ~~[who]~~ that have
12 traditionally been underrepresented in the specific area of
13 graduate study or profession for which the scholarship is
14 awarded."

15 SECTION 2. Section 21-21G-5 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988,
16 Chapter 111, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "21-21G-5. CONDITIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR ELIGIBILITY.--

18 A. Priority ~~[will]~~ shall be given to New Mexico
19 ~~[students from those groups with the most severe~~
20 ~~underrepresentation and]~~ students who are New Mexico residents
21 with the greatest financial need and students who are residents
22 from groups underrepresented in graduate education.

23 B. A scholarship may be awarded to ~~[an individual]~~
24 a New Mexico resident who has:

25 ~~[A. is a citizen of the United States or who~~

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 ~~has a permanent resident visa~~ (1) earned a bachelor's degree
2 and maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0
3 scale or who holds a paid position supporting faculty teaching
4 or research activities;

5 [B. ~~has~~] (2) met the admission requirements,
6 [and] is accepted for enrollment [~~as a full-time student in an~~
7 ~~underrepresented~~] and enrolls in at least six credit hours in a
8 graduate [~~or professional~~] field of study [~~as determined by the~~
9 ~~institution~~]; and

10 [C. ~~has~~] (3) complied with all the rules [~~and~~
11 ~~regulations~~] adopted by the [~~commission~~] department for award
12 of the scholarship and the provisions regarding the
13 administration of [~~state~~] the graduate [~~scholarships adopted~~
14 ~~pursuant to the Graduate Scholarship Act; and~~

15 ~~D. agrees to serve in an unpaid internship or~~
16 ~~assistantship at the eligible institution, a government agency~~
17 ~~or private industry approved by his major department for ten~~
18 ~~hours per week during the academic year]~~ scholarship program."

19 SECTION 3. Section 21-21G-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988,
20 Chapter 111, Section 6, as amended) is amended to read:

21 "21-21G-6. CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.--

22 A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this
23 section, a scholarship may be [~~reawarded~~] re-awarded to a
24 student who:

25 [A. ~~has been~~] (1) was an award recipient [~~of~~

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 ~~a New Mexico graduate scholarship]~~ the previous year;

2 ~~[B.]~~ (2) maintains a grade point average of
3 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale and remains in good academic
4 standing as determined by the eligible institution; and

5 ~~[G.]~~ (3) is enrolled ~~[as a full-time graduate~~
6 ~~student as determined by the institution;~~

7 ~~D. is pursuing the second year of a master's degree~~
8 ~~or the second or third year of a doctoral degree; and~~

9 ~~E. agrees to serve in an unpaid internship or~~
10 ~~assistantship at the eligible institution, a government agency~~
11 ~~or private industry approved by his major department for ten~~
12 ~~hours per week during the academic year]~~ in at least six credit
13 hours in a graduate field of study.

14 B. A graduate scholarship may be granted until the
15 award recipient either receives a terminal degree or has
16 qualified and received eight semesters of scholarship,
17 whichever occurs first."

18 SECTION 4. Section 21-21G-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988,
19 Chapter 111, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "21-21G-7. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--Scholarship ~~[awards~~
21 ~~shall be for seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200) per~~
22 ~~year to be disbursed in equal installments over the period of~~
23 ~~an academic year]~~ award amounts shall not exceed one hundred
24 percent of tuition and fees for the graduate program at the
25 eligible institution for the academic year; provided that the

.229242.2

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 department shall fund only one semester at a time and shall not
2 fund the second semester of the academic year if the student
3 does not enroll for that semester or does not otherwise
4 maintain eligibility."

5 SECTION 5. Section 21-21G-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1988,
6 Chapter 111, Section 10, as amended) is amended to read:

7 "21-21G-10. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--A scholarship
8 is terminated upon the occurrence of:

9 A. withdrawal from the eligible institution by the
10 award recipient or failure to reenroll for consecutive academic
11 ~~[years or failure to be a full-time graduate student; or]~~
12 semesters;

13 B. failure to maintain the required grade point
14 average and other qualifications for the scholarship; or

15 ~~[B.]~~ C. substantial noncompliance by the award
16 recipient with the Graduate Scholarship Act or the rules
17 ~~[regulations]~~ or procedures promulgated by the ~~[commission]~~
18 department in accordance with that act."

19 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
20 provisions of this act is July 1, 2025.