

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 151

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE GRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP ACT TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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 consecutive period of
two semesters [~~three quarters~~] or other comparable units
[~~commencing with the fall term each year~~];

B. "award recipient" means a student awarded a
graduate scholarship;

C. "department" means the higher education
department;

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underscored material = new
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1 D. "eligible institution" means any graduate-
2 degree-granting state university in New Mexico accredited by
3 the ~~[north central association of colleges and secondary~~
4 ~~schools]~~ higher learning commission;

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

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

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

18 "21-21G-5. CONDITIONS FOR FIRST-YEAR ELIGIBILITY.--
19 Priority will be given to ~~[New Mexico students from those~~
20 ~~groups with the most severe underrepresentation and]~~ students
21 who are New Mexico residents with the greatest financial need
22 and students from those groups underrepresented in graduate
23 education. A scholarship may be awarded to an individual who:

24 A. ~~[is a citizen of the United States or who has a~~
25 ~~permanent resident visa]~~ has earned a bachelor's degree from an

1 eligible institution and maintained a grade point average of
 2 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale or who holds a paid position
 3 supporting faculty teaching or research activities;

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

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

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

18 D. agrees to serve the eligible institution during
 19 the academic year in an internship or assistantship by working
 20 at the eligible institution, a government agency or a private
 21 industry approved by the individual's major department."

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

24 "21-21G-6. CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY.--

25 A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this

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1 section, a scholarship may be reawarded to a student who:

2 ~~[A.]~~ (1) has been an award recipient of a New
3 Mexico graduate scholarship the previous year;

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

7 ~~[C.]~~ (3) is enrolled ~~[as a full-time graduate~~
8 ~~student as determined by the institution;~~

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

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

16 (4) agrees to serve the eligible institution
17 during the academic year in an internship or assistantship by
18 working at the eligible institution, a government agency or a
19 private industry approved by the student's major department.

20 B. A graduate scholarship shall not be granted on
21 behalf of an award recipient who has received the graduate
22 scholarship for four semesters."

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

25 "21-21G-7. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS.--~~[Scholarship awards~~
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underscored material = new
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1 ~~shall be for seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200) per~~
 2 ~~year to be disbursed in equal installments over the period of~~
 3 ~~an academic year.] Scholarship award amounts shall not exceed~~
 4 ~~one hundred percent of tuition and fees for the graduate or~~
 5 ~~professional program at the eligible institution."~~

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

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

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

13 B. substantial noncompliance by the award recipient
 14 with the Graduate Scholarship Act or the rules [~~regulations~~] or
 15 procedures promulgated by the [~~commission~~] department."

16 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.--Five million dollars
 17 (\$5,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
 18 higher education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2024
 19 to fund the Graduate Scholarship Act. Any unexpended or
 20 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2024
 21 shall revert to the general fund.

22 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
 23 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.