

ARTICLE 30. THE GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE FUND

Section 1. Graduate Student Assistance Fund

- a) The University will maintain a “Graduate Student Assistance Fund” (the “Fund”) for the purpose of supporting the wellbeing of graduate students, including GEs, facing financial hardship relating to a Qualifying Event. Each year, on September 15th, the University will place an amount equal to \$50 per admitted and enrolled UO master’s and doctoral student (the “Annual Amount”) into the Fund to be used for awards to eligible UO graduate students. UO will replenish the Fund with the Annual Amount and will carry-forward amounts remaining in the Fund from the previous year up to one-third of the previous year’s Annual Amount (this process shall be referred to as the “Annual Accounting”). For purposes of determining the Annual Amount on any September 15th, the number of admitted and enrolled master’s and doctoral students will be the number that were enrolled as cited in the fall Fourth Week Data Report from the previous fall.
- b) For purposes of this section, a Qualifying Event is defined as follows:
- (1) the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child;
 - (2) pregnancy disability or prenatal care;
 - (3) to care for a spouse (or equivalent under Oregon law), registered domestic partner, child, or parent who is experiencing a serious medical condition or the student’s own serious health condition;
 - (4) the death of a spouse (or equivalent under Oregon law), registered domestic partner, child, parent;
 - (5) International graduate students who had a GE appointment during the academic year as part of a multi-year funding offer commitment and do not have a GE appointment in the subsequent summer may apply to the fund for support for living expenses over the summer;
 - (6) Graduate Employees may access the Graduate Student Assistance Fund for the purposes of childcare. This assistance may be used once per academic year per child aged thirteen (13) or younger and only for documented childcare. Accessing the Graduate Student Assistance Fund for childcare as described in this Section shall not count toward the maximum cap on accessing the fund.
 - (7) A loss of housing more than sixty (60) days prior to the end of a lease agreement or similar housing instrument to which the GE is subject, which requires the GE to vacate the premises within thirty (30) days. This subsection does not apply if GEs are removed from their housing due to a violation of a lease agreement or similar housing instrument, or if they voluntarily terminate a lease agreement or similar housing instrument.

~~e) The GTFF shall appoint two representatives to the Fund Committee.~~

University of Oregon Management Proposal

June 5, 2026

(Track changes reflects modifications of the original cba language)

d)c) Grievances under [ARTICLE 13](#) related to the Graduate Student Assistance Fund are limited to those disputes over the process used to review the application and may be filed directly at Step 3. ~~All other Fund disputes, including substantive determinations, shall be resolved through the Fund's appeal procedures.~~ The Division will provide GTFF leadership annually with a report of Fund use and discuss procedures, decisions, concerns, and recommendations in monthly labor management meetings.

Section 2. Up to twice per fiscal year, if the Fund's total reserves fall below \$25,000, the University shall make a payment of \$25,000 to the Fund.

Section 3. The University agrees to explore ways to improve outreach and care to support the wellbeing of graduate students by working with the Office of the Dean of Students and other offices offering relevant resources in order to:

- a. increase graduate students' knowledge of and access to all available crisis resources, and
- b. to improve the care and support given to students who apply for crisis resources.