

Guidelines for Chancellor's Graduate Student Awards
Department of Communication
Revised 2005

The Chancellor's Graduate Student Awards are intended to help specified programs primarily attract and sometimes retain high quality graduate students beginning with the 2002-3 academic year. The funds' purpose is to make more competitive UWM's financial packages to targeted students with superior academic records whom we likely would not attract without a Chancellor's Award.

The amount of awards may differ from student to student in a given academic year and for the same student year over year. An award may be made to a student for a single year; an award may not be made to the same student for more than two years. Funds must be targeted and cannot be used for every student in a program. If the award is not in addition to an existing 33% or greater appointment, fringe benefits of approximately 13% must be paid. All awards should be initiated by the annual university-set date.

Quality Criteria for Selection/Retention of an Award as an Incoming Student

- GRE Scores
- Undergraduate/graduate GPA
- Quality of undergraduate or prior graduate program
- Letters of recommendation
- Evidence of scholarly progress and promise (e.g., publications, presentations, creative activities, research grants or experience)
- Enrollment as a full-time graduate student

Eligibility Criteria for Receiving and Retaining an Award as a Continuing Student

- Completed a minimum of 12 graduate level credits with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 during the first year
- Continued enrollment as a full-time graduate student in a second year of study

Award Selection Process

The Communication Department's Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC) will meet during the Spring semester to review the completed and nearly completed graduate program entrance applications. First priority for Chancellor's awards will be to new incoming students each year. Hence, Chancellor's awards will be used first to attract high quality students, and only secondarily, to retain high quality students already in the program. Using the quality criteria, the GAC will rank order eligible candidates in the incoming first-year student pool. The committee will rank order and assign a relative rating to the members of this pool and discuss the latitude available to the Graduate Director in the dynamic process of making and negotiating offers to individual candidates. The Graduate Director will use these recommendations to recruit the best and greatest number of superior students possible, re-consulting the GAC as necessary.

Strategy for Distributing Awards

- Since attraction is a bigger challenge than retention, 100% of the funds will be targeted for incoming students.
- Preference will be given to candidates who have additional financial awards from UWM (e.g., AOP Fellowship, Graduate School Fellowship, Teaching Assistantship appointment of 33% or more). This practice will minimize the proportion of the \$10,000 spent on indirect costs and maximize the desired effect of the program that this award money function as an additional incentive to enroll at UWM rather than another institution, not as one's primary means of financial support.
- If funds remain after all the high-quality incoming students have been awarded monies, then the GAC will turn its attention to providing awards to returning students.