Principles of Financial Support

To gain a high level of competence within their areas of specialization, graduate students must be able to work in a fully committed manner on research projects, coursework, and pedagogical skills. For most students, financial support is required. Consequently, the Department of Psychology uses the following principles as a guide in developing policies concerned with financial support. Ideally, departmental policy will reflect a balance of these principles. The concepts within the principles of “completing program requirements in a timely fashion” and “adequate evaluation” are to be understood within the context of the departmental policy document “Student Evaluation Procedures.”

**Principle 1. Support should enable full-time research and study.**

Support for graduate students should allow all students to concentrate on research and study through provision of full-time assistantships or comparable support throughout the year.

**Principle 2. Support should be secure and reasonable.**

The period of full-time support for graduate students should span the time intended, by program design, to complete program requirements in a timely fashion.

**Principle 3. Support should be contingent on student performance.**

Principle 2 notwithstanding, continuing departmental support may depend on adequate evaluation with respect to research and scholarship, academic performance, and progress in the program.

**Principle 4. Support should enable scholarly and professional development through undergraduate instruction.**

Support for graduate students should reflect the importance of teaching to scholarly and professional development.

**Principle 5. Support should ensure the maintenance of an appropriate program size.**

Decisions about support for graduate students should enable the Department to have a continuing "critical mass" of students across areas in the Department.

**Principle 6. Support should reflect excellence.**

When it does not compromise Principles 1 and 2, departmental funds may be used to provide modest supplements to competitive scholarships.
Revision History

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