

 <b>Research &amp; Sponsored Programs</b> UNIVERSITY OF DENVER	<b>Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Policy Manual</b>  <b>National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program</b>
	Policy Number: ORSP-31
<b>Recommended By:</b> Director of Sponsored Program Administration <b>Approved By:</b> Senior Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education	Effective Date: 10/01/2023

### 1. PURPOSE

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing full-time research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The GRFP provides three years of support over a five-year fellowship period for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant research achievements in STEM.

NSF GRFP was established to recruit and support individuals who demonstrate the potential to make significant contributions in STEM. Thus, NSF especially encourages applications from undergraduate seniors and Bachelor's degree-holders interested in pursuing research-based graduate study in STEM. First- and second-year graduate students in eligible STEM fields and degree programs are also encouraged to apply.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

None

### 3. POLICY

- 3.1. NSF GRFP awards are made to the institution of higher education at which a fellow is or will be enrolled. The University is responsible for financial management of the award and disbursement of fellowship funds to the individual fellow. The University will administer the awards, including any amendments, in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in the most recent addition of the [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Administrative Guide for Fellows and Coordinating Officials](#).
- 3.2. The fellow will review, understand and comply with all the terms and conditions contained in the most recent addition of the [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Administrative Guide for Fellows and Coordinating Officials](#) as well as any other terms and conditions forwarded to the fellow by the NSF.
- 3.3. The NSF GRFP fellowship provides three years of fellowship stipend and two years of reserve status. All fellows must declare a fellowship status by the applicable due date using the appropriate online system.

- 3.4. GRFP fellowships cannot be concurrently accepted or combined with support from another individual federal graduate fellowship.
- 3.5. NSF GRFP fellows must complete responsible conduct of research training within thirty (30) days of the activation of their fellowship regardless of their status. The University has approved the responsible conduct of training course offered by [CITI Training Programs](#).
- 3.6. The following expenses incurred by an NSF GRFP fellow are allowable by the University:
  - 3.6.1. Tuition and continuous enrollment fees.
  - 3.6.2. Technology fees.
  - 3.6.3. Student activity fees.
  - 3.6.4. Transportation fees.
  - 3.6.5. Health and counseling fees.
  - 3.6.6. Health insurance provided by the University's vendor.
  - 3.6.7. Books and software with an educational purpose.
  - 3.6.8. Research materials and supplies related to the GRFPs academic studies.
  - 3.6.9. Academic conference registration and corresponding travel.
  - 3.6.10. Supplemental courses or workshops not conducted by the University.
- 3.7. Eligible fees described in Section 3.6 above are permissible for the term of the NSF GRFP.

#### **4. PROCESS**

- 4.1. While on tenure, fellows must be enrolled and engaged in full-time research and will receive a fellowship stipend. Fellows may use on tenure status for three (3) years in twelve (12) month increments over the five (5) year term of the fellowship. Summer is not considered a vacation period; fellows must be actively enrolled and engaged in full-time research. Fellows on tenure may not hold graduate teaching or research assistantships concurrently.
- 4.2. While on reserve status, fellows do not receive a stipend and must be enrolled and engaged in full time research. Fellows may use reserve status for two (2) years in twelve (12) month increments over the five (5) year term of the fellowship. On reserve fellows may hold graduate teaching or research assistantships and other paid positions of up to twenty (20) hours a week if it does not interfere with their full-time research.
- 4.3. Fellows must remain enrolled full-time and make satisfactory academic progress toward their degrees. Fellows must meet their academic milestones on time while engaged in full-time research.
- 4.4. The fellow's academic program or department will provide oversight of the fellow and must certify once per quarter that the fellow is in good standing in both their academics and research.
- 4.5. The fellow's academic program or department will oversee the financial management of the fellows NSF GRFP award in collaboration with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

#### **5. RESOURCES**

- 5.1. [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Administrative Guide for Fellows and Coordinating Officials](#)