



UC Graduate Education

The Commission on the Growth and Support of Graduate Education: Conclusion

The University of California's Commission on the Growth and Support of Graduate Education has concluded that to serve the state's needs, UC must increase support for individual graduate students and boost systemwide graduate student enrollment by 11,000 by 2010.

The commission based its conclusion on three overarching factors:

1. California's economy is increasingly dependent on research and innovation, and graduate education is the key training ground for the people who will produce discovery. (See *Innovation and Prosperity at Risk*)
<http://www.ucop.edu/services/gradeduc.html>.
2. The state's postsecondary institutions must hire 40,000 faculty in the next decade to serve the state's educational needs; postsecondary faculty can only be produced in sufficient numbers to meet California's needs by increasing the numbers of UC graduate students.
3. Advanced degrees are the path for upward mobility not only for those who achieve graduate degrees, but for people at all educational levels, because the business, scientific and cultural leaders that come from the ranks of UC graduate students create jobs and opportunities for many other people.

Current/Future Graduate Student Support Needs

University of California graduate students currently receive \$417 million in overall support annually.

The commission estimated that by 2010, the university will need an additional \$215 million annually first, to provide student support for the additional 11,000 graduate students needed, and second, to increase the level of student support to continue to attract the most promising students in an increasingly competitive market. The bulk of that money is expected from traditional sources, but there will still exist a \$65 million shortfall.

The commission said the funding should come from a combination of federal, state and private sources, including increased funds from private donors and industry.

Currently, UC graduate students live on an average of just \$22,000 per year from work, (including teaching and research assistantships and non-university employment), savings, and borrowing.

Commission Recommendations

The commission made six recommendations on how UC should expand its graduate programs and increase graduate student support:

1. Seek an increase in federal support for fellowship stipends from the current \$16,000-18,000 annually to \$25,000, and advocate as well for an additional 1,500 stipends nationwide for graduate students (increase to UC: \$22 million)
2. Urge the state to create a program of repayable fellowships for doctoral students in California universities who, upon graduation, agree to teach in California higher education institutions (increase to UC: \$20 million)

3. Seek state funding for 1,000 “incentive grants” for students awarded prestigious national fellowships to make the University of California more competitive in enrolling them (increase to UC: \$10 million)
4. Develop a program of Collaborative Industry-University Internships for graduate students, particularly at the master’s level, integrated with their academic programs (increase to UC: \$8 million)
5. Create a University of California graduate fellowships endowment to raise the funds to provide \$5 million annually for first-year and dissertation-year fellowships, especially in underfunded disciplines (increased immediate fundraising with a goal of a \$125 million endowment.)
6. Develop a solid case for more funding for nonresident graduate students, and then inform state and federal decision-makers and private donors about the importance of educating graduate domestic nonresident and graduate international students in California, proposing to them the funding necessary to accomplish it.

The commission also recommended a series of steps designed to make UC’s campuses the best environments in the nation for graduate students. These include sustaining and enhancing program and faculty excellence, striving to guarantee affordable housing for first-year graduate students, and creating more opportunities for students’ development as scholars and for career planning.

The 22-member commission was appointed by Board of Regents Chairman S. Sue Johnson and UC President Richard C. Atkinson in January 2001. It is co-chaired by Regent Johnson and UC Provost C. Judson King.

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