

This rule was filed as 5 NMAC 7.15.

TITLE 5 POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION
CHAPTER 7 TUITION AND FINANCIAL AID
PART 15 GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

5.7.15.1 ISSUING AGENCY: State of New Mexico Commission on Higher Education, 1068 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501-4295, (505) 827-7383.
 [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.2 SCOPE: Provisions for 5 NMAC 7.15 [now 5.7.15 NMAC] apply to New Mexico residents who are graduate students enrolled at New Mexico four-year public post-secondary institutions.
 [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Section 21-21G, NMSA 1978.
 [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.4 DURATION: Permanent.
 [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.5 EFFECTIVE DATE: July 15, 1998 [unless a later date is cited at the end of a section].
 [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.6 OBJECTIVE: The objective and purpose of 5 NMAC 7.15 [now 5.7.15 NMAC] is to increase graduate enrollment in the state's public universities of students from groups underrepresented in graduate education. By encouraging groups underrepresented in graduate education to pursue advanced degrees in accredited graduate programs, particularly in academic fields of high regional and national priority and fields where their under-representation is most severe, the state will benefit by increasing the number of professionals for industry, business, research and development, economic development and public service.
 [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.7 DEFINITIONS:

- A. "Academic year" means any consecutive period of two semesters, three quarters or other comparable units commencing with the fall term each year.
 - B. "Award recipient" means a student awarded a graduate scholarship.
 - C. "Commission" means the New Mexico commission on higher education.
 - D. "Eligible institution" means any graduate-degree-granting New Mexico public university accredited by the north central association of colleges and schools.
 - E. "Financial need" means the difference between a student's projected costs for the year, including books, materials, supplies, room and board and other reasonable costs, and the student's resources, including available income and other available assets as determined by an approved standardized needs analysis system.
 - F. "Graduate and professional field" means any program of study intended to result in a master's or doctoral degree, excluding the degree in medicine.
 - G. "Groups underrepresented in graduate education" means women, minorities, the visually handicapped, the physically disabled and other groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in the specific area of graduate study or profession for which the scholarship is awarded.
 - H. "Scholarship" means an award made by an institution of higher education to a person for graduate study under the Graduate Scholarship Act.
- [7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.8 STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Conditions for First-Year Eligibility: Priority will be given to New Mexico students from those groups with the most severe under-representation and students with the greatest financial need. A scholarship may be awarded to an individual who:
 - (1) is a citizen of the United States or a permanent resident alien and is a member of a group underrepresented in his/her intended graduate or professional field of study;
 - (2) has met the admission requirements and is accepted for enrollment as a full-time student in a graduate or professional field of study with high priority or underrepresentation, as determined by the institution;
 - (3) has complied with all the rules and regulations adopted by the commission for award of the scholarship and the provisions regarding the administration of state graduate scholarships adopted pursuant to the Graduate Scholarship Act;
 - (4) agrees to serve in an unpaid internship or assistantship at the eligible institution, a government agency or private industry approved by his major department for ten hours per week during the academic year; and

(5) is eligible according to a standard needs analysis or when a financial aid officer exercises professional judgment in accordance with the institution's and applicable federal financial aid standards to determine that circumstances, for which documentation exists in the student's file, warrant adjusting the cost of attendance, expected family contribution or other factors to make the program responsive to a student's special financial circumstances, within the parameters authorized for this program.

B. Conditions for Continuing Eligibility: A scholarship may be re-awarded to a student who:

- (1) has been an award recipient of a New Mexico graduate scholarship the previous year;
- (2) remains in good academic standing as determined by the institution;
- (3) is enrolled as a full-time graduate student as determined by the institution;
- (4) is pursuing the second year of a master's degree or the second, third or fourth year post-baccalaureate of a doctoral degree;
- (5) agrees to serve in an unpaid internship or assistantship at the eligible institution, a government agency or private industry

approved by his major department for ten hours per week during the academic year; and

(6) is eligible according to a standard needs analysis or when a financial aid officer exercises professional judgment in accordance with the institution's and applicable federal financial aid standards to determine that circumstances, for which documentation exists in the student's file, warrant adjusting the cost of attendance, expected family contribution or other factors to make the program responsive to a student's special financial circumstances, within the parameters authorized for this program.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.9 INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. The eligible institution must agree to give preference to students enrolled in academic programs where their underrepresentation is most severe and must agree to give full consideration to students with physical, visual or hearing disabilities.

B. The eligible institution must agree to give preference to:

(1) students who have previously been awarded a graduate scholarship under this program, within the limits of eligibility established in Section 8 [now 5.7.15.8 NMAC], then

(2) students who have been newly recruited to the institution, thereby adding to its enrollment of graduate and professional students from underrepresented groups.

C. The institution must agree not to reduce its level of financial aid from other sources for award recipients.

D. The eligible institution must agree to appoint an individual with appropriate educational background, experience and institutional authority and responsibility, to administer this program.

E. The eligible institution must agree to establish appropriate scholarship selection procedures and maintain appropriate data and records. Each major department involved in the program must agree to provide appropriate orientation, practical experiences and assistance designed to prepare scholarship recipients for academic and/or professional careers.

F. In addition to the unpaid internship or assistantship required in Section 8 [now 5.7.15.8 NMAC], the institution must award to the recipient a paid internship or assistantship in her or his major department for ten hours per week during the academic year and summer sessions.

G. The institution must provide adequate financial support for recipients maintaining satisfactory progress and requiring more than two years to complete their master's degrees and for recipients requiring more than four years post-baccalaureate to complete their doctorates.

H. By September 1 of each year, the institution must submit to the commission an annual report summarizing for the prior academic year the number of scholarship recipients, by group and field; the expenditures and beginning and year-end balances for the program; and such other information as may be requested by the commission.

I. Periodically, at the request of the commission, representatives of eligible institutions will meet to discuss and coordinate the definition of academic fields of high regional and national priority and other matters pertaining to the program.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.10 APPLICATION PROCEDURES: A student applies directly to an institution of higher education that has received an allocation of scholarships.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.11 AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

A. Scholarship awards shall be for seven thousand two hundred dollars (\$7,200) per academic year.

B. Scholarship awards shall be disbursed in equal installments over the period of an academic year or period of enrollment.

C. An award recipient who is enrolled in the program for less than an academic year shall receive a pro rata share of the stipend.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.12 TENURE OF SCHOLARSHIP:

A. Each scholarship is awarded for a period of one academic year.

B. A recipient who remains in good academic standing in his/her course of study, as determined by the institution, may receive the scholarship for a total of two years for master's degree program students, or for a total of four years post-baccalaureate for doctoral degree students, subject to the availability of funds.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.13 DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

- A. Each eligible institution will receive its annual share of new scholarship dollars based upon the average of its:
- (1) total graduate and professional enrollment of women;
 - (2) total graduate and professional enrollment of underrepresented minorities (Hispanics, Native Americans and Blacks); and
 - (3) total graduate and professional enrollment.

B. No university shall receive fewer than three scholarships per year. If any university is to be allocated fewer than three scholarships, a pro rata share of scholarships shall be taken from the two universities with the highest number of scholarships and allocated to those universities which would otherwise receive fewer than three scholarships.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.14 VACATED SCHOLARSHIPS: If a recipient vacates a scholarship prior to the end of an award period, that scholarship may be offered to another eligible student, with first priority given to a student who is not currently enrolled for graduate study at the university.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.15 TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarship is terminated upon the occurrence of:

A. withdrawal from the institution by the award recipient, failure to re-enroll for consecutive academic years or failure to be a full-time graduate student; or

B. substantial noncompliance by the award recipient with the Graduate Scholarship Act or the rules, regulations or procedures promulgated by the commission.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

5.7.15.16 DELEGATION OF ADMINISTRATION: The commission may designate an administrative agent for this program. The administrative agent shall be responsible for disbursement of funds to participating institutions through the individual appointed by the institution as administrator for the scholarship program.

[7/15/98; Recompiled 10/31/01]

HISTORY OF 5.7.15 NMAC:

Pre-NMAC History: The material in this Part was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under:

CHE Rule 890, Graduate Fellowship Program - Administrative Regulations, 3/8/90.

CHE Rule 890, Graduate Fellowship Program - Administrative Regulations, 8/15/91.

CHE Rule 890, Graduate Fellowship Program - Administrative Regulations, 7/1/93.

History of Repealed Material: [RESERVED]