

Forms of Financial Aid for Graduate Study

Fellowships

- Designed to encourage study in specific areas
- Applications usually available from departments or agencies
- Amount varies and could include tuition or stipend
- Usually requires full-time enrollment (at least 9 units)

Scholarships

- Designed to encourage study in specific areas
- Applications usually available from institutions, departments, or agencies
- Applications are usually due in January
- Usually based on academic performance or potential
- Amount varies and could include tuition and/ or stipend

Assistantships

- Usually in the form of teaching, research, or staff position
- Grant for tuition, a stipend, and some benefits depending on appointment and institution
- Application available for departments of hiring offices
- Based on ability to perform certain duties

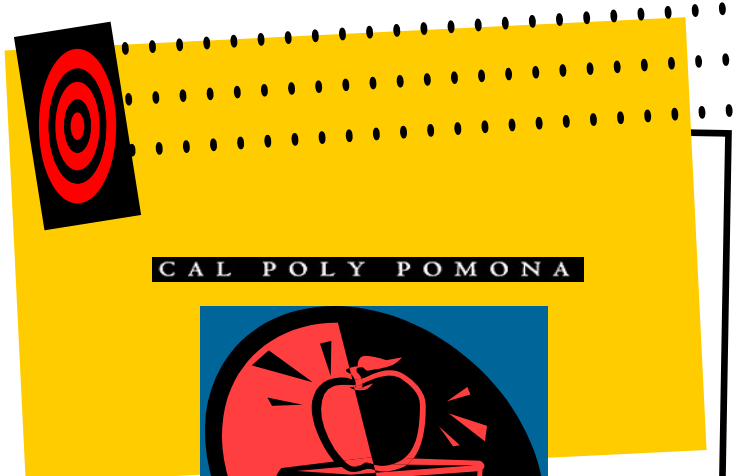
Federal Direct Stafford Loan

- Long- term loan awarded through the institution
- Use of financial aid application, FAFSA
- Amount awarded based on financial need
- Information available through campus financial aid offices
- Interest Begins 6 to 9 months after the borrower ceases to be at least a half time student

Federal Perkins Loan

- Long- term, low interest student loan
- FAFSA and student tax returns must be provided
- Amount based on financial need
- Contact campus financial aid office for more information

From Potter, 1998



CAL POLY POMONA



CULTURAL CENTERS GRAD CENTER

Planning for Graduate School

Ideas for:

Selecting a Program, A
Graduate School Timeline, &
Forms of Financial Aid for
Graduate Study



African American Student Center
(909)869-5006 www.csupomona.edu/~aasc

Asian and Pacific Islander Student Center
(909)869-5023 www.csupomona.edu/~apisc

Cesar E. Chavez For Higher Education
(909)869-5035 www.csupomona.edu/~cesar_e_chavez_center

Native American Student Center
(909)869-2132 www.csupomona.edu/~nasc

Pride Center
(909)869-3064 www.csupomona.edu/~pride_center

The Office of Student Life
(909)869-2841 www.csupomona.edu/~osl





Selecting a School/Program

Selection Criteria:

1. Admission:
 - What are the Criteria?
 - GPA, test scores, professional experience, etc.
2. Faculty:
 - Size and reputation
 - Research emphasis
 - Experience
 - Accreditation
3. Cost
 - Public/Private
 - Out of State Tuition
4. Location
 - Urban/ Suburban/ Rural
5. Size of the program
6. Graduation Rate
7. Length of time to finish
8. Dissertation and comprehensive exam requirements
9. Assistantship types and quality
10. Flexibility to design your own programs
11. Emphasis:
 - Research
 - Theory to practice
12. Co-curricular activities
13. Reputation
 - School
 - Program
 - Student and student life

Adapted from Shintaku, 1994

Graduate School Timeline

Freshman to Junior Year

Work on your GPA, writing skills and decide what you want to study.

Senior Year

Summer

1. Start by making a list of 7 to 10 schools that you are interested in. You'll want to narrow this list down to 4 or 5 final schools.
 - What do you want out of your graduate school experience?
 - What are the characteristics of your ideal program?
 - Research fellowship/ assistantships
2. Begin soliciting faculty and staff to serve as references
 - You need to have at least one faculty and one staff member serve as a reference for you

September

1. Finalize a list of three to four schools
 - Send away for applications to the graduate school, the specific program and opportunities for assistantships.
2. Find out when the GRE is being offered and sign up for the earliest possible test date.
 - Sign up for the test and begin studying

October

1. Study for the GRE/ Take the GRE
2. Work on applications
 - Personal Statements (Do no less than four drafts, two in October and two in November)
 - Provide your references with the necessary paperwork- make sure you provide each person with a due date and make sure s/he sticks to it. Also make sure you provide each person a copy of your statement of purpose

November

1. Study for the GRE/ Take the GRE
2. Continue working on application packets
 - Gather references

December

1. Finalize Application packet for fellowship deadlines & Mail out applications
2. Take the GRE
 - You can have your scores sent to certain schools if you specify them when you take the test
3. Fill out a Financial Aid form

January/ February

1. Mail out applications
2. Send out Financial Aid Form
3. Contact Schools to confirm they received your material
4. Visit the schools
5. Wait

March/ April

1. Go to schools to interview and visit
2. Wait/ make your decision

If you don't get accepted

- Talk to a graduate advisor of the program and determine reasons and whether you should change your goals.
- Take heart! Realize that students are sometimes accepted on their second or third try, or when they choose a different goal or choice of study

Adapted from Shintaku, 1994

