

Graduate Studies

the academic year 2001-2002. For specific information, write to the chair of the major department.

Graduate Student Research Awards

Limited awards of \$500 are available each fall semester on a competitive basis to students in any academic area in the form of grants for special merit and quality scholarship of graduate student research proposals associated with a thesis or project. For further information, contact the Division of Graduate Studies, (559) 278-2448.

Graduate Student Travel Grants

Travel grants are available to graduate students who have had papers and/or posters accepted for presentation at major, professional conferences or society meetings. For further information, contact the Division of Graduate Studies, (559) 278-2448.

California Graduate Equity Fellowship Program

Fellowships ranging in amounts of up to \$4,500 are available for underrepresented graduate students who qualify. The California Graduate Equity Fellowship Program seeks to increase the diversity of students completing graduate degree programs at California State University, Fresno and encourages continuation to doctoral programs and consideration of university faculty careers. It provides fellowships for economically disadvantaged graduate students (especially those from groups that are underrepresented among graduate degree recipients in their areas of study) and promotes faculty mentoring and research opportunities. Filing deadlines are in the spring for funding in the following academic year. Additional information may be obtained from the Division of Graduate Studies, (559) 278-2448.

State Graduate Fellowships

The Student Aid Commission administers the State Graduate Fellowship Program for tuition assistance for master's and doctoral students. To apply, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and return it by March 1. In addition, students must complete and mail the Student Aid Commission GPA Verification Form to the Commission by March 1. These forms are available at the Financial Aid Office.

California Pre-Doctoral Program for Undergraduate and Graduate Students

The California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of California State University students who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. The program provides travel funds for qualified students to visit institutions that grant the doctorate and/or attend professional meetings with a faculty sponsor. Students in the program may also be considered to participate in a summer research program at a UC or CSU campus. Additional information is available through the Division of Graduate Studies.

University Scholarships for Graduate Students

Postbaccalaureate/graduate students may apply for scholarships through the Scholarship Office, Joyal 274, between September 1 and November 19 each academic year. Such an application is necessary to compete for award monies available from the university and from individual departmental resources.

In addition, each year Fresno State also awards entering graduate students two President's Graduate Scholars Fellowships of \$3,500 each and one Leon Peters Scholarship of \$1,000 to continuing graduate students. President's Graduate Scholars may obtain a second year of funding if satisfactory progress is maintained. Nominations for the Peters awards originate from the graduate degree program directors.

Definition of Full-Time Student

Depending on the use of the term, there are several definitions of full time. *For the purpose of reporting enrollments*, graduate students taking 9 or more units are considered full time and students taking less than 9 units are considered part time.

For the purpose of financial aid (loans, veteran's assistance, etc.), a full-time student takes 12 "equivalent units" wherein each graduate unit (200-level) attempted by a graduate student is considered as 1.5 units and each undergraduate unit (100-level or below) counts at face value. For example, a student enrolled for eight 200-level units would be considered a full-time student. Three-quarter time and half-time

are defined to be 9 to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 6 to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "equivalent units," respectively.

Under certain circumstances, a student enrolled in Graduate Studies Continuation (zero units) to complete requirements for the master's degree (including Thesis 299, Project 298, and the Comprehensive Examination) may qualify for full-time status or a fraction thereof. The Graduate Office will verify the student's appropriate status in such cases through his or her major adviser upon request from the student.

Maximum Study Load

Graduate courses require substantially more concentrated study than do undergraduate courses. A normal load is from 9 to 12 units, and the maximum allowable load is 16 units for full-time master's degree students when one or more courses in the 200 series are included. Requests for exceptions to this policy must be addressed to the Graduate Division on a graduate student petition for academic overload during the first two weeks of the semester. Students employed full time may take a maximum of 6 units. For maximum units during the summer session, see the *Summer Session Catalog*.

Application for Graduate/Postbaccalaureate Admission

Students are encouraged to plan and apply for graduate admission as early as possible. Completed applications are considered as they are received and thus there are many benefits to applying early. For example, it is often the case that available financial awards such as teaching assistantships and other financial aid resources, which are limited in number, may be granted only to the early applicants. Be aware, too, that a decision on an incomplete application is likely to be delayed. In many instances this occurs when supporting documents such as official transcripts, scores from standardized tests (GRE, GMAT, MAT), portfolios of writing samples, letters of recommendation, etc. are not received. Applicants are advised to ensure that these materials are requested and forwarded prior to or at the same time as the submission of their application. The Graduate Admissions Office (located in Joyal Administration, Room 121) keeps a record of all applications during the time they are being considered and may be consulted for information on the status of an application. Prospective master's, credential, and advanced certificate students apply to the university using