



*Financial
Assistance*

for

**Graduate
Students**



Potsdam

THE STATE UNIVERSITY

Financial Assistance for Graduate Students

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Two symbols are used throughout this guide —

 means that you should contact the Center for Graduate Studies

 means that you should contact the Financial Aid office

Contact Information

Center for Graduate Studies

44 Pierrepont Avenue
Satterlee Hall, Suite 116
Potsdam, NY 13676
(315) 267-2165
(800) 458-1142, ext. 1
graduate@potdam.edu
potdam.edu/masters

Office of Financial Aid

44 Pierrepont Avenue
319 Raymond Hall
Potsdam, NY 13676
(315) 267-2162
finaid@potdam.edu
potdam.edu/admissions/financial

Financial Assistance for Graduate Students — Overview

There are three major types of financial aid available to students: Grants and Scholarships (awards which do not have to be repaid); Loans (which must be repaid); and Employment (allows students to earn money to be used toward educational expenses). Please note that to be considered for government aid, a student must be matriculated (that is, accepted into a degree program).

Federal Financial Aid

Graduate students are eligible for federal loan funding when enrolled in at least 6 credits. While full-time status for graduate students is 9 credits or more, all financial aid packages are estimated based on enrollment in 12 credits when FAFSA information is received. Please contact the Financial Aid Office if you are enrolled in fewer than 12 credits. In most cases an adjustment is made only for tuition, fees and books; funding for living expenses is not affected.

Aid for Prerequisite courses

You may be eligible for federal student loans for one consecutive 12-month period for prerequisite courses you are required to take before admission to a graduate program. You must be enrolled at least half-time (six or more credit hours) in order to receive federal loans for prerequisite courses. You may be eligible for up to \$5,500 in federal Stafford Subsidized or Unsubsidized loan funding, and up to \$7,000 in additional federal Stafford Unsubsidized loan funding for the classes required for that program.

Financial Aid for Summer Session

In order to be considered for summer financial aid, receipt of FAFSA data is required prior to the last day of the last session for which you are enrolled. *If you wait to file your FAFSA and we receive the data after you have already completed summer classes, you will not be eligible for summer financial aid.*

You will also need to submit the Summer Aid Application to the Financial Aid Office once you are registered for summer classes. The application is available in mid-April, online and in the Financial Aid Office. If you plan to attend classes at another institution for the summer for coursework required

for your degree program, you will also need to submit a Student Consortium Agreement, which is provided with the Summer Aid Application. You will need to: be a matriculated graduate student for the summer session to receive summer aid, *be registered in at least six or more credit hours to receive a federal loan*, and complete the FAFSA at least six weeks in advance of needing funding.

For more information about financial aid for summer and to access the Summer Aid Application, please visit the Financial Aid Office or our web site at: www.potsdam.edu/financialaid. FA

Additional Federal Programs

[Federal TEACH Grant Program](#)

[Federal Direct Loan Program](#)

[Veterans' Benefits](#)

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserves, their dependents and survivors may be eligible for postsecondary education benefits. For detailed information, contact the Veterans Administration at 1-888-442-4551 or see the GI Bill Web site: www.gibill.va.gov.

If you are planning to use GI benefits at SUNY Potsdam, please contact the Military and Veterans Student Services Coordinator in the Student Success Center in Sisson Hall, 315-267-3398.

The Potsdam web site is: www.potsdam.edu/support/military/index.cfm.

[Graduate Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy & Eligibility Status](#)

Federal regulation mandates that a recipient of Federal Title IV aid (Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Work Study, Federal TEACH Grant/Loan, Federal Stafford Loan, and Graduate PLUS) make Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) toward the completion of a degree to maintain eligibility for that funding. For more information, please use the following link to access information about Satisfactory Academic Progress on our web site



<http://www.potsdam.edu/admissions/financial/SAP.cfm>. FA.

State Fellowships/Scholarships (Must be NYS Resident)

Applications for the following two state programs may be obtained by contacting the Center for Graduate Studies. Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted to the Center on August 1 or December 1. (These deadlines apply to both new and returning applicants.)

[Graduate Opportunity Waiver Program](#)

This need-based program provides a tuition scholarship in the form of a tuition waiver to former EOP, SEEK or HEOP students who are accepted and enrolled as full-time graduate students. The waiver is typically awarded on the basis of merit.

[SUNY Graduate Diversity Fellowship](#)

The State University of New York (University) offers graduate fellowships to students who have been admitted to graduate or professional study and who will contribute to the diversity of the student body in the graduate or professional program in which enrollment is sought. This program assists the University in the recruitment, enrollment and retention of students in graduate programs who demonstrate that they will contribute to the diversity of the student body, especially those who can demonstrate that they have overcome a disadvantage or other impediment to success in higher education.

[NYS Math/Science Teaching Incentive Scholarship](#)

New York State (NYS) Math & Science Teaching Incentive Scholarships are offered to encourage students to pursue careers as secondary math and science teachers (grades 7-12). This program provides awards to students attending school at the undergraduate and/or graduate degree level in exchange for five years of full-time employment as secondary education math or science teachers. Recipients shall receive an annual award for full-time study equal to the annual tuition charged to NYS resident students attending an undergraduate program at the State University of New York, or actual tuition charged, whichever is less. New applicants will be ranked by GPA and total credits earned. If there are more applicants than available funding, awards will be paid according to rank. For more information, visit [HESC](#) on line.

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Employment

Graduate Academic Assistantships


Graduate Assistantships (GAs) are awarded annually to students who have demonstrated a high degree of academic excellence and professional competence. A limited number of GAs offering both a stipend and a tuition scholarship are available for the academic year based on the availability of funding. Graduate Assistantships are awarded typically on the basis of merit, and it is assumed that GAs will be associated with their major departments and/or School to supplement their graduate degree program. Assistantships cannot be awarded to part-time non-matriculated students.

The number of credit hours for which a graduate assistant is registered ordinarily shall be at least nine semester hours and shall not exceed 15 semester hours without the approval of the department and/or School. Graduate Assistants who wish to take advantage of the tuition scholarship must be registered full-time (as determined by their program of study). Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by June 30.


Special Assistantship Application Procedures for Crane: Graduate Assistantships in The Crane School of Music are available to qualified full-time music graduate students during the regular academic year only. Applicants for music assistantships must submit an application, available on the web at: www.potsdam.edu/crane, click on “Graduate Studies” and appropriate supporting materials (e.g., letters of recommendation and materials to document skills, experience or achievement in areas of expertise) to the Office of Graduate Music Study, The Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam no later than March 2. Assistantships will be awarded on the basis of student admission to the program, academic credentials, and skill/experience/achievement in the area of each designated assistantship.

Graduate Advantage Program (GAP)

Similar to the GA positions, this award includes work in either an academic area or professional offices on campus. These positions will be partial tuition remission with small stipend awards designed to support instructional costs.

Applications for either tuition remission program may be obtained by contacting the Center for Graduate Studies. Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by June 30. 

Federal Work Study (FWS)

To apply for FWS, it is suggested that the FAFSA be completed as early as possible. The College will consider applications on a rolling basis and awards will be made providing funds are still available. 

Residence Life Assistantships

Residence Life has assistantships available each year for qualified applicants. Successful candidates serve as the Residence Hall Director of a building of about 200 students and six student staff members. Remuneration consists of a stipend of \$2,000, up to 18 credits of SUNY Potsdam graduate tuition assistance (9 credits each semester), a board plan, a benefits package and a furnished on-campus apartment. Interested candidates should contact the **Center for Campus Life, Draime Hall Extension, 315-267-2350.**

Other Part-time Student Employment

A limited number of part-time employment opportunities (in addition to Federal Work Study) are available on campus. Employment with the food service program, as a residence hall assistant or as a student assistant with an academic or administrative department are a few examples of the various on-campus job opportunities (available in BearPAWS under BearTracker).

Scholarships


The following scholarships are awarded by the Potsdam College Foundation through gifts from alumni and friends of the College.

SUNY Potsdam Graduate Scholarship


Awarded to incoming full-time, matriculated graduate students. **SUNY**

Potsdam Graduate Scholarships for International Students Awarded to

incoming full-time, matriculated international graduate students.

Information and applications for both of the preceding opportunities are available at: www.potsdam.edu/scholarships. 

School of Education and Professional Studies:

Information and applications for all education scholarships may be obtained from and returned to the Center for Graduate Studies in Satterlee Hall 116. 

William J. Amoriell Scholarship

Awarded to a full-time or part-time matriculated student in a degree program offered by the School of Education & Professional Studies. Graduate students must have a 3.3 GPA or higher. *Awarded to returning students.*

Annual Fund Scholarship

Awarded to matriculated students in a graduate or undergraduate teacher certification program who have completed 12 credits of education courses with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5 in their major. This recipient is chosen by Department faculty members; no application is needed. *Awarded for fall semester.*

Thomas “Tommy” Bickford Memorial Scholarship

Awarded (proportionally) to a full-time or part-time graduate student enrolled in the Special Education program. Preference will be given to a candidate who has had previous experience working with individuals with special needs or who has had personal experience with a family member or friend with special needs. *Awarded for fall semester.*

Lorraine Mader Bryner Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a graduate student pursuing a Master’s degree in Special Education. Candidate must have the ability to demonstrate potential and commitment to becoming an exceptional teacher in Special Education. *Awarded for fall semester.*

Winton H. Buddington Reading Scholarship

Awarded to matriculated students in the MSED program with a Literacy specialization who have completed at least nine graduate credits with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.5. Eligible students will receive an email in the spring semester with application materials. *Awarded to returning students.*

Dorothy B. Carpenter ’34 Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to a student enrolled in a teacher preparation program pursuing either a Bachelor’s degree or a Master’s degree in education. *Awarded to returning students.*

Michele Christy Memorial Scholarship

Awarded to graduate students who have successfully completed a semester in the MST Childhood Education program. Candidates must demonstrate a passion for teaching and a desire to reach all children. Preference will be given to nontraditional students with young children. *Awarded to second semester returning students.*

Peg Cullen Scholarship

Awarded to a full-time graduate student who is enrolled in a teacher education program. Candidate must exhibit a commitment to teaching, financial need, and have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0. *Awarded for fall semester.*

William Q. & Patricia B. Davis Fellowship

Awarded to graduate matriculated student enrolled in MSED Literacy program, having graduated with an undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 or above or current graduate student grade point average of 3.5 or above if recipient has had one or more semesters of graduate courses. Must provide evidence of ability to plan and organize other staff under their authority, experience in facilitating goal setting and accomplishment, successful teaching experience including pre-service and in-service. Preference will be given to candidates with some background in national and international travel. Candidate will work in the Rebecca V. Sheard Literacy Center a set number of hours per week.

Florence M. Dowd Scholarship

Awarded to matriculated students in pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate degree in the elementary certification, MSED (elementary), or MST (elementary) program. Recipient must be a graduate from (in order of preference) Canton Central High School, Lisbon Central High School or Ogdensburg Free Academy. *Awarded to returning students.*

Evans-Cummings '83 Scholarship

Awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student with a declared education major. Recipient must have graduated from a North Country School District, with preference given to students from South Jefferson Central School. Financial need, good academic standing, and illustrated involvement in the community are required. *Awarded to returning students.*

Krista Fordham '08 Master's in Education Scholarship

Awarded to a student enrolled full-time in the MST Childhood program within the School of Education and Professional Studies. Preference will be given to residents of the Northeastern United States. *Awarded for fall semester.*

Alfred W. Santway Scholarship

Awarded to full-time matriculated students in pursuit of a graduate degree in the Master of Science in Education or Master of Science for Teachers programs who have completed at least 12 graduate credits. Preference will be given to residents of St. Lawrence County who have proven financial need, seriousness of purpose, and academic achievement. *Awarded for fall semester.*

James Walter and Ruth Johnson Scott Student Scholarships

Awarded to matriculated graduate students in pursuit of a graduate degree in the Master of Science in Education or Master of Science for Teachers programs. Preference will be given to those demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. *Awarded for fall semester.*

The Crane School of Music:

*The following music scholarships do not require a separate application; information about them may be obtained from **The Crane School of Music, Graduate Music Office** at (315) 267-2775, or gradmusic@potSDam.edu.*

Helen Snell Cheel Scholarship

Awarded to full-time graduate students in The Crane School of Music who have proven musical ability and financial need. Selection is made by the

Potsdam College Foundation and the Dean of The Crane School of Music based upon the recommendation of The Crane School of Music Graduate Program Committee.

Warren Earl Hultberg Scholarship Fund

Awarded to students in the graduate music program in The Crane School of Music. Selection is made based upon the recommendation of the Dean of The Crane School of Music.

Additional Funding Opportunities

Emergency Refund Advance

The Financial Aid Office administers a short term loan program, which is intended to assist students during times of unanticipated emergencies or other demonstrated necessity. SUNY Potsdam students registered full-time who have financial aid pending may request emergency advances of up to \$500. A \$10 service fee will be charged for each approved advance. To obtain an application form, contact the Financial Aid Office. Students must be eligible for financial aid and anticipating a refund to receive this advance.

Contact Information

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(315) 267-2165

(800) 458-1142, ext. 1

graduate@potsteam.edu

potsteam.edu/masters

Twitter: [@sunypotsdamgrad](https://twitter.com/sunypotsdamgrad)

Facebook: [CGSPotsdam](https://www.facebook.com/CGSPotsdam)

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Potsdam

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