

2019-2020 Graduate Family Grant Program Guidelines

This is the second year of a pilot Graduate Family Grant Program developed in response to the concerns of students who are parents. For 2019-2020 the Grant will provide up to \$15,000 per year per family to eligible graduate students with dependent children. Funds may be used flexibly as needed to cover expenses such as childcare, healthcare and rent. Awards will be disbursed via the student's account and are considered taxable income.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicant

- You must be a matriculated graduate student (in any graduate program) with registered student status. Postdocs are not eligible for this program. Only one application per family should be submitted if both parents are graduate students.

Child(ren)

- Must be your legal dependent(s) as shown on your 2018 federal income tax return. For children born after January 1, 2019, a copy of the birth certificate (or other official documentation) will be required.
- New international students or others who may not have filed a 2018 federal tax return must submit alternate documentation (e.g., birth certificates or dependent visas).

Household Income

- You must have a household income of \$125,000 or less per year. You must demonstrate your financial need by submitting appropriate income documentation (e.g., 2018 federal income tax documents), including child support received. Students who are experiencing significant changes in income from one year to the next will be able to submit information about current income.
- If you share a household with the parent of your child(ren), they must also provide financial information.

Award Level

- Awards may range from \$1,000 to \$15,000 for the academic year, depending on family financial circumstances.
- Award levels are based on your household's federal taxable gross earnings as documented by prior year tax forms, documentation of child support payments received (if applicable), and the age and number of eligible children. Expenses for childcare, healthcare and rent will also be factored in to our consideration.
- Families with children under 10 years old as of 9/1/2019 will be given greater consideration.

- The Financial Aid Office will consider your individual circumstances as explained on your application and will establish your grant eligibility (no more than \$15,000 total grant) based on your individual financial situation.
- Students are eligible for one grant per family, per year (September 1 through August 31).
- Special note for families living in Escondido Village with 2 or more children: You are also applying for the Escondido Village Family Fund (EVFF) with the Graduate Family Grant application. If you meet the criteria for the EVFF, a portion of your grant will be funded by this endowed fund per the donors' wishes. The total of both awards will not exceed \$15,000.

Application Process

The Priority Filing Deadline for the 2019-2020 Academic Year is **July 15, 2019**. Applications received after that date will receive funding on a rolling basis. Initial notifications of eligibility will be made by August 15, 2019.

1. Complete [Graduate Family Grant Application 2019-2020](#).
2. Gather your supporting documents including 2018 federal tax returns and birth certificates for children born in 2019 and upload them securely to the Financial Aid Office (in PDF format) at the Financial Aid Office's secure [upload page](#). If you have already submitted tax forms/income information to your Financial Aid Office you do not need to do so again.

What Happens Next?

The Financial Aid Office will notify you of your eligibility via your Stanford email account by August 15th (for those who apply by July 15th) and on a rolling basis thereafter (at least monthly). Funds will be disbursed on a quarterly basis via your Stanford University Student Account at the start of each quarter, provided the recipient has enrolled as required for financial support (generally in fulltime status; see the General Eligibility Requirements section of the [GAP Chapter 7.1.1](#)).

It is highly recommended that recipients sign up for [Direct Deposit](#) through Axess. You will be given an opportunity during the application process to choose whether you would like the funds to pay housing expenses on your student account before any remaining balance is refunded to you, or if you want the entire balance at the start of each quarter (helpful if using the funds to pay child care expenses, for example) regardless of the balance on your student account.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I am enrolled less than full time. Am I still eligible for the Family Grant?

If you have successfully petitioned for [Part-time Enrollment status](#) through the Registrar's Office, regardless of the reason, you will still be entitled to receive the Family Grant. Students on an approved Leave of Absence or not currently enrolled will not be eligible.

2. I do not have children who are dependents, but I am supporting other family members (e.g., parents, siblings). Am I eligible for this program?

No. This program was created specifically to support students who are parents with their special needs. While we understand that you may also have special needs, these funds were not made available for students in your situation. You may explore additional avenues for support with your academic department or financial aid officer.

3. Someone else claims my child for tax purposes, but I still have expenses related to their support. Can I still apply?

Yes, you may still apply. You should provide information about the situation and your expenses along with your application. Grant eligibility is based on financial need.

4. What are acceptable forms of documentation for our parent/child relationship?

- Child is claimed as a dependent on your latest tax return, or
- Copy of a birth certificate, or
- Letter from the hospital, or
- Court Orders establishing custody or guardianship, or
- F2 or J2 visa documentation

5. If I am approved for this grant, will any of my current funding be impacted?

When federal student aid (student loans or Federal Work Study) or private student loans are involved, the total of the funds you receive may not exceed your individual cost of attendance. Loan eligibility, in particular, may be reduced in favor of the Family Grant. Please discuss the situation with your financial aid officer. Eligibility for University fellowships or Assistantships will not be impacted.

6. My costs are higher than the grant I received. What other resources are available to me?

We do not expect the Family Grant to meet the full costs of supporting dependents. If you need additional resources while you are a student, federal student loan programs are available for US citizens and permanent residents and private loans are a possibility for international students. You can find more information at the [FAO's loan page](#).

7. I'm a postdoc who is also enrolled in a degree program. Can I apply?

No. Postdocs are not eligible for this program. The [Office of Postdoctoral Affairs](#) can recommend resources for you.

8. Where can I get more information about taxes related to this grant?

U.S. Citizen and Permanent Resident students who receive a scholarship, fellowship or grant from the University will not receive a tax document reporting this income. (Non-resident students will receive a 1042-S reporting this income for use in filing their federal tax return.) However, students may need to self-report a portion of this income on their tax returns. See [IRS Publication 970](#) for detailed information on tax reporting requirements for scholarships and fellowships. The FAO maintains a list of links to [tax information](#).

9. I still have questions. Who can I talk to?

The Financial Aid Office is managing this program in partnership with the Financial Aid Offices at the Law School, Graduate School of Business and School of Medicine (for MD's). You may contact FamilyGrant@lists.stanford.edu with additional questions.