
PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE



RESOLUTION No. SP23-R008

Resolution establishing the PGSG Accessibility Grant

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WHEREAS, According to GradSERU data collected at ten large public research universities from May to July 2020, 28.6% of graduate and professional students had at least one disability¹; yet

¹ Kirby, C. S., Soria, K. M., & Xiong, S. (2021). *Graduate and professional students with disabilities: Obstacles to degree progress during the COVID-19 pandemic*. National Center for College Students with Disabilities.
https://www.nccsdonline.org/uploads/7/6/7/7/7677280/final_gradseru_obstacles_to_degree_progress.pdf

WHEREAS, During the 2021-2022 academic year, 373 graduate students were registered with Purdue’s Disability Resource Center (DRC), reflecting only 3.2% of the graduate enrollment at Purdue West Lafayette campus at the beginning of the academic year², and

WHEREAS, This discrepancy may mean that Purdue is particularly unsupportive of disabled graduate students or that disabled graduate students may choose not to register with the DRC– in either case, further resources recognizing the specific needs of disabled graduate students are required;and

WHEREAS, Purdue is bound by federal law to make all aspects of the university accessible and states that “the Purdue Community works together to remove any barriers that prevent equal opportunities to individuals who have disabilities;”³and

WHEREAS, Researchers at the School of Educational Policy, Research, and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, state that “students with disabilities incur greater (often hidden) monetary costs in college that are not compensated for by financial aid or other institutional supports, imposing barriers to persistence and post-graduation success;”⁴ and

WHEREAS, These costs may be especially burdensome in graduate school, given the research and employment-related duties of graduate students in addition to coursework requirements and the increase in cost of living; and

WHEREAS, It is recommended that higher education professionals “consider the financial hardships experienced by graduate and professional students with disabilities when providing services to students;”⁵and

WHEREAS, Equity in access to facilities in graduate school is essential for the creation of safe learning and working spaces for graduate students at Purdue; and

WHEREAS, Equity in access to research and professional development opportunities are essential to both success in graduate school and post-graduate opportunities; and

WHEREAS, There are currently no resources at Purdue tailored to the specific needs of graduate students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Smaller initiatives through organizations like PGSG can lead to future impactful changes; and

² DRC Annual Report 2021-2022 <https://www.purdue.edu/drc/about/report.php>; Purdue Graduate School Enrollment Data <https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/documents/ima/enrollment/Fall-Enrollment-WL-Fall-2021.pdf>

³ <https://www.purdue.edu/accessibilityresources/>

⁴ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1034912X.2021.1966758>

⁵ https://www.nccsonline.org/uploads/7/6/7/7/7677280/nccsd_research_brief-the_experiences_of_graduate_and_professional_students_with_disabilities_during_the_covid_pandemic.pdf

WHEREAS, PGSG is committed to advocating for the rights and equity in workspace opportunities for all students

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Purdue Graduate Student Government calls for the establishment of an Accessibility Grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the goal of the Accessibility Grant will be to lessen the financial impact for graduate students with disabilities or access needs; and

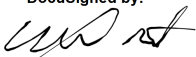
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Accessibility Grant will be established with the proposal in Exhibit “A” as its guiding document, with amendments to grant policies possible by senate action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That awards of the Accessibility Grant will be granted as reimbursement for additional travel costs (for academic and professional purposes), purchase of technology (both software and hardware), coursework related expense and research related expenses pertaining to access needs with a maximum of \$500, with no minimum award value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the GRAC Chair will appoint and preside over a Review Committee consisting of the PGSG President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, Advisor, Diversity Officer, GRAC Professional Development Vice Chair, a representative from the Critical Disability studies program, and GRAC Accessibility Vice Chair; this Committee will be responsible for scoring applications and voting on the full or partial funding of application budget items; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the PGSG asks the Purdue Graduate School to potentially fund this grant fully/partially.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND RESOLVED 8th day of March 2023.

DocuSigned by:

B5010D7B004B4A7...
President, PGSG

DocuSigned by:

9A293462337E40F...
Senate Chair, PGSS

Certification

I, Mary Brown, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 8th day of March 2023 by the following vote:

AYES (41): Agricultural and Biological Engineering - Mike Sserunjogi
Agricultural Economics - Haseeb Daudzai
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication - Bryanna Nelson
Animal Sciences - Sarah Innis
Anthropology - Olivia Palepoi
Basic Medical Sciences - Siyuan Sun
Biochemistry - Steven McKenzie
Biological Sciences - Morgan Chaney
Biomedical Engineering - Michael Zimmerman
Botany and Plant Pathology - Ricky Critchfield
Chemical Engineering - Annie Sun
Chemistry - Solita Wilson
Civil Engineering - Agustin Quinones
Communication - Savannah Meier
Comparative Literature - Marisa J. Bryans
Computer Science - Jacob White
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences - Austin Blevins
Economics - Talha Cakir
Educational Studies - Stephanie Contreras
Electrical and Computer Engineering - Somosmita Mitra
Engineering Education - Barbara Fagundes
Engineering Technology - Pragatheiswar Giri
English - Christopher Barber
Environmental and Ecological Engineering - Aliya Edhe
Forestry and Natural Resources - Ken Yao Chong
History - Secret Permenter
Horticulture and Landscape Architecture - Camila Ulloa Gomez
Hospitality and Tourism Management - Rachel Zhang
Human Development and Family Studies - Amy Loviska
Industrial Engineering - Utkuhan Genc
Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences (IBSC) - Antonia Susnjar
Materials Engineering - Daniel Sinclair
Nuclear Engineering - Stepan Ozerov
Nutrition Science - Julia Choi
Philosophy - Mary Brown
Physics and Astronomy - Shayamal Singh

Purdue University Interdisciplinary Life Sciences (PULSe) - Lauren Wilbanks
Sociology - Reilly Kincaid
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences - Brooke Rodgers
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation - Elizabeth Thompson
Veterinary Clinical Sciences - Ojo Oluwabunmi T.

NAYS (0):

ABSENT (9): Agronomy - Binod Gyawali
Aviation and Transportation Technology - Shantanu Gupta
Curriculum and Instruction - Theodora Amuah
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) - Alaunie Smiley
Food Science - Anaël Kimble
Global Supply Chain Management - Rohan Saini
Languages and Cultures - Santiago Parra Giraldo
Management - Arindam Roy Chowdhury
Political Science - Matthew Ellis

ABSTAINED (6): Ecological Sciences and Engineering (ESE) - Neha Shakelly
Health Sciences - Sydney Stradtman
Industrial and Physical Pharmacy - Pradnya Prakash Bapat
Mechanical Engineering - Meghavin Bhatasana
Public Health - Sidney Smith
Statistics - Imon Banerjee

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of March 2023.

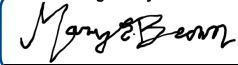
DocuSigned by:

DC61112437FD494...
Senate Clerk, PGSS

EXHIBIT "A"

PGSG ACCESSIBILITY GRANT

[SEE ATTACHED SIX (6) PAGES]

PGSG Accessibility Grant

Spring 2023

Proposal by:

Somosmita Mitra - Senator, School of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Chair, Grant Review and Allocation Committee, Purdue Graduate Student Government;

Rebecca-Eli Long - Legislative Affairs Officer, Purdue Graduate Student Government;

Introduction

The Purdue Graduate Student Government seeks to establish a new grant beginning Fall 2023 entitled the “Accessibility Grant.” The purpose of this grant would be to offset fully/partially a single or group of expenses incurred by graduate students at Purdue with accessibility needs. This grant is to be established as an independent venture outside of the pre-existing professional development and travel grant award. Applications to the Accessibility Grant may be made in conjunction to the Travel and Professional development grant. The Accessibility Grant will support all graduate students with access needs that are financially impacted in their work, academic, professional development. PGSG recognizes that workplace equity and equity in professional development activities are an important aspect of graduate student life. There can be additional costs that are incurred in pursuit of such activities due to accessibility needs. This Accessibility Grant would assist graduate students in offsetting these costs either as an independent grant or one awarded in conjunction to the existing Travel and Professional Development Grant awards. Financial assistance would be provided for the following expenses:

- Additional travel costs (for research, conference, or other professional travel)
- Purchase of technology (both software and hardware)
- Coursework related expenses
- Research related expenses

Additional needs would be considered for the Accessibility Grant support on a case-by-case basis. The grant’s support would be contingent on the use of funds to address specific activities related to academic, professional and coursework development. Additional travel costs may include specific or upgraded seat reservations, travel accommodations, or lodging which are necessary for full accessibility. When purchasing technology, this grant can be used for purchasing software or hardware technologies (e.g., text to speech translators, screen readers, etc.) or for altering workspaces (e.g., air filters, adjustable desks, ramps, lighting) with the goal of promoting successful, safe, and satisfactory working conditions for graduate students with access needs. Coursework-related expenses can cover costs relevant to room, assistive technology, time and

physical equipment requirements needed while taking courses at Purdue, when not funded by the Disability Resources Center. Research-related expenses can relate to purchasing accessible lab equipment or funding for services such as ASL (American Sign Language) interpretation or CART (Computer-Aided Real time Transcription) when necessary for a student's research. Thus, the grant application process would include a personal statement and a budget justification document. The personal statement would describe the nature of the applicant's accessibility needs and any additional circumstances contributing to their financial need. The proposed budget would consist of individual expenses as line items and written justifications for each expense, including a description of other avenues for funding the applicant has explored. Applications would be considered by a review committee each month, with the review cycles aligned to the deadlines of existing GRAC grants. Results would be announced within a maximum of five weeks after submission, in accordance with the review cycle for existing grants. Awards would be processed at the end of each month through a grant fund appropriated from the overall PGSG budget.

Committee

The GRAC chair shall head a review committee consisting of: PGSG President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, Advisor, Diversity Officer, GRAC Professional Development Vice Chair, a representative from the Critical Disability studies program, and GRAC Accessibility Vice Chair. At the GRAC Chair's discretion, a GRAC Accessibility Vice Chair may be recruited at the beginning of each academic school year to assist in the management of the grant. The duties of the Accessibility Vice Chair may vary under the discretion of the GRAC Chair, but may include monitoring application submissions, disseminating anonymized applications to the review committee, keeping records of requests and awards, and presiding in the GRAC Chair's place as needed on the review committee. All committee members and the GRAC Accessibility Vice Chair would be required to be FERPA trained. This committee would select applications for awards based on a consistent rationale for funding allocation. The following fund allocation process is proposed:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| PGSG Annual Budget Allocation | \$10,000.00 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Re-allocation | <p>Funds may be reallocated from GSOGA, Travel Grant, Professional Grant, and Symposium Grant to the Accessibility Grant, based on application numbers and need with the approval of the GRAC Chair and PGSG Treasurer.</p> <p>Reallocation from other external PGSG expenditures would be done in accordance with procedures in the FCO.</p> |
|---------------|---|

Process for awarding the grant and application

Eligibility

Graduate students who self-report having a disability or access need that financially impacts their coursework, employment, or other professional activities related to their graduate career at Purdue University are able to apply. Students will self-report by submitting the Accessibility Grant application. Students will be eligible to apply and receive the award once per academic year. Awards will be capped at a \$500 maximum request per application. Applicants will not be allowed to apply for reimbursement of previous purchases (e.g. retroactive rewards). Graduate and professional students supported by PGSG (i.e. sans PharmDs) will have to be enrolled and in good standing with the University, PGSG, and GRAC in order to be eligible.

Applications and Review

Grant applications will be submitted and reviewed on a rolling basis as needed. Applicants will be required to submit a Qualtrics application survey ([[hyperlink](#)], screenshot in Exhibit “B”), including a personal statement and proposed budget (example in Exhibit “D”). Applications and/or Qualtrics forms that are not complete will not be eligible for review, and applicants will be contacted to resubmit. The PGSG GRAC Chair or Accessibility Vice Chair is responsible for

determining application eligibility, removing or redacting identifiable information, and presenting applications to the Review Committee for deliberation.

Each application will consist of a personal statement and proposed budget. The personal statement will describe the nature of the applicant's accessibility needs and any additional circumstances contributing to their financial need. The proposed budget will consist of individual expenses as line items and written justifications for each expense, including a description of other avenues for funding the applicant has explored.

Applications will be scored according to a minimal rubric as shown below for a total of 12 points. A point cutoff will be used to determine whether a grant is funded (7/12 points is the recommended score; however, the Accessibility Review Committee is able to amend this expectation for the start of the next academic year if necessary). Funding amount will be decided according to the items listed in the budget. The review committee will vote on whether to fully or partially fund each individual item on the budget, as related to the appropriateness of the item to the demonstrated need and the overall demand for funding. If partial funding is decided, that item will generally be funded 50%; however, partial funding amounts will be decided at the discretion of the review committee. Rationale for partial funding amount will be available to the student and documented for future reference. If requests for funding exceed the available grant funding at the time of Accessibility Review Committee voting, award amounts will be reduced as appropriate by partial funding decisions.

Funding Rubric:

1. Description of background of financial need (excluding private/undisclosed information)
 1. Financial need is easily understood by the reader - 3 pts
 2. Financial need is discussed but unclear - 2 pts
 3. Financial need is included without discussion - 1 pt
 4. Financial need is not included - 0 pts
2. Budget justification
 1. All budgeted items match the discussed circumstances and have rationale relating them to the applicant's graduate career at Purdue - 3 pts
 2. Most budgeted items match the discussed circumstances and have rationale - 2 pts
 3. Some budget items match the discussed circumstances and have rationale - 1 pt
 4. Budgeted items are not relevant to the discussed access needs - 0 pts
 5. No budget given - 0 pts
3. Professional impact

1. Description clearly describes how the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 3 pts
 2. Some description is given as to how the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 2 pts
 3. Vague description is given or it is unclear how the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 1 pt
 4. No description about the impact the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 0 pts
4. Cost reduction and other aid
1. Efforts are discussed to reduce the costs of budgeted items to a reasonable extent, including seeking additional sources of funding - 3 pts
 2. Ways to reduce the costs of budgeted items are recognized, but the reduction is not possible and/or the discussion of other funding sources is unclear - 2 pts
 3. Vague description of cost reduction efforts and/or the applicant did not make reasonable efforts to reduce costs or seek additional sources of funding- 1 pt
 4. No description of cost reduction or other funding sources are given - 0 pts

Total: 12 points (requires 7/12 for approval)

The Accessibility Grant Committee will be given 3 weeks to respond to the GRAC Chair or Accessibility Vice Chair with their graded rubrics and any comments. The following decisions may be reached:

1. Awarded partially or fully - requested need is eligible, application meets minimum expected requirements (e.g. point cut-off for approval). No further action is required on the part of the applicant. The committee may fund it
2. Denied - a) requested need is ineligible or does not fall under access need, or b) the Accessibility Grant does not have the funds to meet the applicant's request.

Once a decision has been reached, the GRAC Chair or Accessibility Vice Chair will notify applicants within 5 business days.

Awards and Follow-Up

Awards will be delivered as reimbursement for purchases matching those approved by the Accessibility Grant Committee committee. Applicants should submit proof of purchase in the form of itemized receipts in an email to the PGSG Treasurer within two months of their application decision. Reimbursement will be provided as checks either sent to the applicant's on-file address or picked up from the Business Office.

Record Keeping

Applications, along with information on funded and non-funded applicants, will be kept in a secure way per FERPA requirements (e.g. a BOX folder kept on the Purdue server). Only the GRAC Chair and, per their discretion, the GRAC Accessibility Vice Chair will have access to applicant identifying information, while the review committee will have access to de-identified data, such as applications. These records will serve to inform Committee members of past funded requests as well as to maintain consistency in expectations and eligibility from year to year. Applications and identifying information will be kept in folders labeled with the current year, as well as an expiration date of 5-7 years. Before a transition between the new and old Accessibility Grant Committee takes place, the previous committee is responsible for removing any expired folders as recommended by FERPA.

EXHIBIT “B”

APPLICANT SURVEY

[SEE ATTACHED THREE (3) PAGES]



First Name

Last Name

Purdue Email

Phone Number

Mailing Address

PUID





Have you received the Accessibility Grant before?

- Yes
- No

Please upload your personal statement here

Drop files or click here to upload

Please include your proposed budget here

Drop files or click here to upload





Privacy Statement: The PGSG Accessibility Grant Committee securely collects the information you voluntarily provide through your online application form which may include personal information (such as your identifying information, lease agreements, documentation of need, etc.). The Committee will not sell or re-disclose the information you provide or use that information for any purpose other than the Committee's consideration of your request for grant funds except as is required by law. The information you provide to the Committee will be securely stored for a period of five (5) years following the last day you attend Purdue University. By submitting your application, you consent to the terms of this privacy statement.

Applicant- Read and Sign: I certify that I have read and agree to the current rules and instructions of the Accessibility Grant.

Applicant Electronic Signature:

Date: (MM/DD/ YYYY)



EXHIBIT “C”

REVIEWER SURVEY

[SEE ATTACHED FOUR (4) PAGES]



Please review the following Accessibility Grant personal statement and grade per the rubric:

[Screenshot of personal statement]

Please review the following Accessibility Grant budget justification and grade per the rubric:

[Screenshot of budget justification]

Funding Rubric:

1. Description of the background of financial need (excluding private/undisclosed information)
 - a. The financial need is easily understood by the reader - 3 pts.
 - b. Financial need is discussed but unclear - 2 pts
 - c. Financial need is included without discussion - 1 pt
 - d. Financial need is not included - 0 pts
2. Budget Justification
 - a. All budgeted items match the circumstances discussed and have a rationale relating them to the applicant's graduate career at Purdue - 3 pts
 - b. Most budgeted items match the discussed circumstances and have rationale - 2 pts

- b. Most budgeted items match the discussed circumstances and have rationale - 2 pts
- c. Some budget items match the discussed circumstances and have rationale - 1 pt
- d. Budgeted items are not relevant to the discussed access needs - 0 pts
- e. No budget given - 0 pts

3. Professional Impact

- a. The description clearly describes how the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 3 pts
- b. Some description is given as to how the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 2 pts
- c. A vague description is given or it is unclear how the requested funds will impact the applicant's professional or academic career - 1 pt
- d. No description of the impact of the requested funds on the applicant's professional or academic career - 0 pts

4. Cost reduction and other aid

- a. Efforts are discussed to reduce the costs of budgeted items to a reasonable extent, including seeking additional sources of funding - 3 pts
- b. Ways to reduce the costs of budgeted items are recognized, but the reduction is not possible and/or the discussion of other funding sources is unclear - 2 pts
- c. A vague description of cost reduction efforts and/or the applicant did not make reasonable efforts to reduce costs or seek additional sources of funding- 1 pt
- d. No description of cost reduction or other funding sources is given - 0 pts

4. Cost reduction and other aid

- a. Efforts are discussed to reduce the costs of budgeted items to a reasonable extent, including seeking additional sources of funding - 3 pts
- b. Ways to reduce the costs of budgeted items are recognized, but the reduction is not possible and/or the discussion of other funding sources is unclear - 2 pts
- c. A vague description of cost reduction efforts and/or the applicant did not make reasonable efforts to reduce costs or seek additional sources of funding- 1 pt
- d. No description of cost reduction or other funding sources is given - 0 pts

Total: 12 points (requires 7/12 for approval)



Please grade according to the rubric:

| | 0- Not included | 1- Included | 2- Sufficient | 3- Appropriate and clear |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Description of the background of financial need | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Budget justification | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Professional impact | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cost reduction and other aid | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Does this application meet the score threshold for eligibility?

- Yes
- No

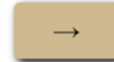


EXHIBIT “D”

REVIEWER SURVEY

[SEE ATTACHED ONE (1) PAGE]

If yes:

For each item on the proposed budget, enter your funding recommendation

| | Do not fund | Partially fund | Fully fund |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Budget Item 1 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| ... | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Budget Item n | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

If partial funding was selected, clarify the reason for partial funding and the recommended amount (in %) for each item.

If no:

Please provide feedback for ways to improve this application

Confirmation:

Are you ready to submit your review?

No

Yes