

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Joint Ph.D. Programs in Public Policy and Social Sciences
Funding Plan for the Implementation of a Continuous Enrollment Policy for Students in Ph.D.
Programs

August 2009

The Ford School of Public Policy, in partnerships with the LSA Departments of Economics, Political Science, and Sociology, offers three Ph.D. joint degree programs (Rackham IDP): Public Policy and Economics, Public Policy and Political Science, and Public Policy and Sociology.

The Ford School is supportive of the Continuous Enrollment Policy for Students in Ph.D. programs that will be effective in Fall Term 2010. Our programs and our students will benefit from the changes that come with the new policy. An important component of the plans for this change is the identification of University sources to pay any new tuition costs for students in our programs that arise due to the policy. This document contains a description of the Ford School's plans for students in the three joint Ph.D. programs.

Student Support

Students in the joint programs generally are admitted with commitments for five years of support that include stipend, health insurance, and tuition grants. The School works with students whose courses of study extend beyond their committed support to identify other sources of support such as GSRA or GSI positions, or internal or external fellowships. Students who are candidates who are making satisfactory academic progress but who are not otherwise supported will be eligible for a tuition-only fellowship coordinated between the Ford School and the relevant LSA social science department in those terms when they are required to register due to the Continuous Enrollment Policy but would not have registered under current practice. It is assumed, but not yet confirmed, that our partner programs will fund students in proportion to the tuition attribution model.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory progress toward the degree is assessed by the program faculty working most closely with an individual student. It will not mean the same thing for every graduate program, nor does satisfactory progress mean the same thing for every student in a given program. Individual circumstances affect the pace at which students can work, and graduate program faculty are best qualified to make decisions about students' progress. Assessment of progress for this purpose will be added to the annual progress report process that all doctoral students in the program are required to complete, beginning in the fifth year of their program.

Students who are not making satisfactory progress will be given written notice, and provided guidance on what needs to be accomplished in a given time period in order to return to satisfactory progress status again. Students who are given notice of a lack of satisfactory

progress are eligible for additional terms of tuition-only fellowship support to provide them the opportunity of making the necessary progress to regain satisfactory standing. Students who do not meet the agreed-on progress milestones will not be eligible for further tuition support until they complete them and have a plan for continued progress.

Estimate of Increased Terms of Registration

Based on the current enrollments in the three joint programs, and an analysis of the registration patterns of current and past candidates, fall and winter terms will see an increase of about five to seven registrations. Coverage for the tuition costs associated with this increased registration will come from the Ford School, LSA, and Rackham; the participating partners in the joint program offerings.

Funding Available for Tuition Payments

The Ford School's ability to fund its share of the tuition-only fellowships will come from expected increases in its General Fund Allocation and from the savings associated with the expected change in the candidacy tuition rate.

The University uses an activity-based model to develop General Fund Budget Allocations to academic units. Due to the activity-based formulas, the increase in registrations results in an increase in the Ford School's General Fund Budget Allocation. This funding will be budgeted for tuition fellowships.

At the effective date of the new policy, the candidacy tuition rate will be reduced in direct proportion to the expected increase in registration. These reduction results in savings in the Ford School due to the current levels of support for candidates in the joint programs. These savings will continue to be directed to student support and will fund a portion of the needed tuition fellowships.

Process

The director of the Ph.D. programs will coordinate with the relevant LSA department when one of the Ph.D. students in the joint programs is without a source of support and is required to register due to the continuous enrollment policy change. Together, they will determine the appropriate source to fund and process the tuition-only fellowship, and the duration for which students will be eligible.

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