

MSU College of Education

Useful Terms & Definitions in the Graduate Grant Process

PI or Co-PI:	Principle Investigator or Co-Principle Investigator
RFP or RFA:	Request for Proposal or Request for Application
AP:	Administrative Personnel who provide administrative or clerical support to projects or activities.
IRTL:	Institute for Research on Teaching and Learning

Types of graduate funding opportunities:

Internships are work-related learning experiences for individuals who wish to develop hands on work experience in a certain occupational field. Most internships are temporary assignments that last approximately three months up to a year.

Fellowships are an amount paid to, allowed to, or for the benefit of, a student to aid him or her in the pursuit of research. Fellowships are based on future or continuing research activity. Generally, fellowships are not compensatory and do not require the performance of a service.

Postdoctoral fellowships are opportunities given to individuals within three years of being awarded a PhD, or an equivalent degree in the discipline in which the research is to be carried out, to continue to conduct research in their field of study. The research is a continuation of training to build their expertise and reputation. Postdoctoral fellows work under the guidance of Principal Investigators.

Research grants provide funds and other resources for graduate students to work on research projects. Research grant recipients refer to students who have received awards directly from an agency or organization, to conduct research under the supervision of a faculty Principal Investigator.

Dissertation grants provide funds for graduate students to work on their dissertation. Dissertation grant recipients refer to students who have received awards directly from an agency or organization, to conduct research under the supervision of a faculty member.

Types of funding agencies:

State and national educational associations serve to represent, advocate for, and provide services to a group of professionals, organizations, or governing bodies in the field of education. Examples include the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association for the Study of Higher Education, and the Michigan Education Association (MEA).

Governmental agencies bring together offices from several areas of the government to ensure and promote educational missions. Examples include the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), National Science Foundation (NSF), and Office of Educational Research (OER).

Private foundations are nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations established to maintain or aid educational, social, charitable, or other activities serving the common welfare or the common good, primarily by making grants to other nonprofit organizations. A foundation has a principal fund or endowment of its own, usually derived from a single source (either a family, an individual, or a corporation) and a program managed by its own trustees and directors. Examples include the Lumina Foundation, Spencer Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.