

UF Graduate School Opportunity Awards
Industrial & Systems Engineering (ISE) - Plan for Provost Block Grants

To attract high quality domestic graduate students, the ISE Department will use UF Graduate School Opportunity Awards (GSOA) funds to: (1) raise stipends for incoming PhD students; and (2) fund at least one new student with top academic qualifications.

Regarding raising stipends, the department will apply GSOA funds to admitted domestic student stipends to achieve \$30,000 stipends. The “top-off” amounts will vary depending on the year of the program. And a student’s base stipend offer. If a faculty member chooses to support a student through a research assistantship (RA), and the student is a recipient of the GSOA top-off, the faculty member will be obligated to cover (at a minimum) \$25,000 (83.333% faculty match) of the student’s stipend and 100% of the student’s tuition waiver. In the event that a student receiving a top-off award is extended a department teaching assistantship (TA), the department will cover the minimum TA stipend, as well as the student tuition waiver, through discretionary funds.

All top-off awards will include a commitment to raise the student recipient’s base stipend offer (in each of the first 4 years of the student’s program of study) to the \$30,000 target stipend, as part of the program. Below is an example distribution of funds from the department and the Provost Block Grant for Year 1 of the program.

Table: Expected funding model (based on out-of-state resident student costs)

		Faculty RA Funding / Department TA Funding	Provost Award	Total
Years 1-4	Stipend	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$30,000
	Tuition	\$17,800	\$0	\$17,800
	Total	\$42,800	\$5,000	\$47,800

In the first year of the Block Grant program, the department expected to award 5-6 GPRA top-offs to incoming high quality domestic students. After initial awards were finalized, and the number of awardees was confirmed, the department ultimately awarded 1 top-off. Consequently, in each year of the program in which the actual number of awards differs from anticipated awards, the department will re-evaluate specific details of the program. The following options will be considered to ensure best utilization of the funds while maintaining adherence to the Provost’s guidelines (listed in order of preference):

- 1) Issuing additional top-offs to new domestic students entering the program in Years 2-5.
 - a. Depending on available funding, and the expectation that these funds should be expended within 5 years, commitments in these subsequent years may need to be less than 4 years
- 2) Increasing the duration of the commitment to first-year students past the initial 4-year period.
- 3) Increasing the top-off amount of existing awards for the remaining years of the student’s award.

- a. For example, increasing the top-off amount from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and/or decreasing the required faculty match to \$22,500 (75.000%).

In addition to these options, in the event that the number of Dean's Research Award (DRA) recipients remains lower than expected, the department will prioritize use of any "carryover" program funds and new block grant funds to provide one full-stipend DRA offer to an incoming student with top academic qualifications. This option will be considered/exercised starting with the Spring 2022 recruitment cycle. Below is a funding model for a full-stipend DRA award based upon the remaining expected block grant funding:

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Faculty Portion	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,599	\$30,000
DRA Portion	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$19,401	\$0
Total Stipend	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000

Fringe (Faculty)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,155	\$3,270
Tuition (Faculty)	\$17,800	\$17,800	\$17,800	\$17,800	\$17,800
Total Faculty Cost	\$17,800	\$17,800	\$17,800	\$29,554	\$51,070