

## Financial Assistance

The Department of Government has a range of financial options to support MPA students. Although not required, students interested in financial assistance may want to consider taking the Graduate Record (GRE) in the fall or winter prior to the year they wish to receive aid. Award decisions are normally made in the spring and early summer for the subsequent year. Depending upon the type of financial assistance awarded, funding will begin in the summer or fall. Mid-year funding is sometimes possible but cannot be guaranteed.

**The following are types of aid available through the MPA Program:**

**Graduate Assistantship.** Stipends vary depending upon the number of hours worked, with a maximum of approximately \$7,100 per semester (20 hour work week). Every effort is made to offer at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  assistantship (15 hour work week). Students work under the direction of Government faculty, performing teaching and research related activities. Assistants pay their own tuition and fees; however, out-of-state students qualify for in-state tuition rates. Students applying to the joint MPA/MCJ Program may also be eligible for an assistantship in the Department of Criminal Justice.

**Minority Graduate Assistantship.** This program is designed to assist minorities and is administrated by the Graduate School. Nominations are solicited from graduate programs across campus and MPA students have a high success rate in securing such positions. Awardees receive a full assistantship and out-of-state tuition waiver. Students work under the supervision of a faculty member from the nominating program.

**Paid Internship.** Paid part-time positions are arranged under contracts with agencies in the immediate area. Students work from 15 to 20 hours per week for varying lengths of time, depending on the nature of the project. Tuition and fees are not covered, and no out-of-state tuition waiver is available. Normally, priority is given to second year students. Internship credits may be arranged.

**New Mexico Municipal League Donald C. Rider Scholarship.** The Donald C. Rider Scholarship provides partial payment of tuition for returning students working full-time in local government or planning a career in local government. Scholarships are awarded annually to New Mexico residents with a commitment to local government.

**New Mexico Municipal League Harold Kious Scholarship.** The Harold Kious Scholarship provides partial payment of tuition for students demonstrating an interest in and commitment to public financial management.

**Roque M. Lujan Scholarship.** This scholarship (\$1,500 in 2006) is awarded annually to a current or incoming graduate student in the Department of Government. Recipients should have a demonstrated commitment to public service, with preference given to Hispanic women who are natives of Dona Ana County, New Mexico.

Students interested in financial aid should indicate their interest on the form for Admission to the MPA Program in order to ensure consideration for positions and resources as they become available. Additional application materials for the Rider, Kious or Lujan Scholarships are available from the MPA Director. Information on student loans, state and federal work study programs, and other type of financial assistance may be obtained from:

Financial Aid and Scholarship Office  
PO Box 5100  
New Mexico State University  
Las Cruces, NM 88003  
(505) 646-4105

You can also visit the office's web site at (<http://fa.nmsu.edu>)

