

August 25, 2014

Dear Colleague,

The Council of Graduate Schools has published a statement titled, "Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants," since the mid-1960s. The Resolution is concerned with the conditions surrounding the acceptance of offers of certain kinds of graduate student financial assistance, namely, scholarships, fellowships, traineeships, and assistantships. The general spirit of the Resolution is that students should have an opportunity to consider more than one offer and should have until April 15 to do so, that institutions and students should be able to view acceptances in force after April 15 as binding, that everyone should know what the rules are, and that an offer by the institution and its acceptance by the student constitute an agreement which both expect to honor. The intent of the Resolution is to provide a uniform and widely acceptable framework for so doing, one that provides protection for both student and institution.

Please note that the Resolution does not preclude institutions from asking students to accept or reject offers in a timely manner. Particularly in the case of some prestigious fellowships, institutions would like to know quickly if the student is going to decline so that the offer can be extended to someone else. An example of one university's approach to this issue is the following statement:

"The Graduate School would appreciate your decision concerning the acceptance or rejection of our award as soon as you are able to give us a reply. In asking you for an early reply, we wish it understood that the [Your University] Graduate School is not asking you to relinquish any privilege, if it is felt necessary to wait until April 15, 20___. However, your early response would be helpful to us in planning for the coming year.[Your university] will consider the accompanying award offer valid until April 15 unless declined at a prior time. If your reply is not received by April 15, the Graduate School may rescind the offer of financial award."

Please note also that the Resolution establishes the expectation that commitments in force after April 15 can be considered binding. Students may still change their minds, but this now requires obtaining a written release from the institution. Similarly, institutions that make offers to students after April 15 but are required to ask students to present a written release from any previous offer.

AFFILIATES

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Midwestern
Association
of Graduate Schools

Western
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The effectiveness of this part of the Resolution in providing universities with some assurance about who will actually be in their programs is totally dependent on how seriously it is taken by participating institutions. Obviously, if a student decides, for any reason, that he or she does not wish to attend your institution, there is not much point in insisting on it. But the language of the Resolution makes it clear that changes after April 15 constitute renegeing on a commitment, and are not to be taken lightly by any of the concerned parties.

Finally, the Resolution states that a copy of the Resolution or a link to the URL should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer. This ensures that each student understands what the options are and knows which institutions subscribe to this Resolution.

The role of the graduate dean with respect to the April 15 Resolution is twofold. First, from time to time--probably each year--this Resolution should be brought to the attention of graduate councils, departmental graduate committees, other relevant groups, and individuals in order to ensure that everyone understands and supports the Resolution. Second, when graduate deans are informed that other institutions appear to be violating the Resolution, they should contact their counterparts at those institutions to resolve the matter.

At its December 2013 meeting, the CGS Board of Directors completed its five-year review of the Resolution and recommended its renewal for another five years.

The long history of this Resolution, and its widespread acceptance in the graduate community, is recognition that it is regarded as a fair statement of good practice and that it serves a useful purpose. If your institution is not currently signatory to the Resolution and you wish it to be, please complete the attached form and we will add your institution to the signatory list. Conversely, if your institution does not wish to comply with the provisions of the Resolution, we will remove your institution's name at your request. There is no need to respond if you intend to remain as signatory.

For your information, a copy of the Resolution appears on the CGS web site at www.cgsnet.org/april-15-resolution.

Sincerely,



Suzanne T. Ortega

Enclosures: CGS Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants
Form to add or remove institutional name



Council of Graduate Schools

Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants

Acceptance of an offer of financial support* (such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution or a link to the URL should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

The following list includes CGS member institutions that indicated their support of the Resolution.

This Resolution was renewed October 2014.

Abilene Christian University	Claremont Graduate University	Georgia Institute of Technology	Medical College of Wisconsin
Air Force Institute of Technology	Clark Atlanta University	Georgia Regents University	Medical University of South Carolina
Alcorn State University	Clark University	Georgia Southern University	Miami University
Alfred University	Clemson University	Georgia State University	Michigan State University
American University	Cleveland State University	Hampton University	Michigan Technological University
Andrews University	College of Charleston	Harvard University	Middle Tennessee State University
Angelo State University	College of New Jersey	Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion	Minnesota State University - Mankato
Appalachian State University	College of Saint Rose	High Point University	Mississippi State University
Arizona State University	College of William and Mary	Hofstra University	Missouri State University
Arkansas State University	Colorado School of Mines	Hood College	Montana State University - Bozeman
Auburn University	Columbia University	Howard University	Montana Tech of the University of Montana
Austin Peay State University	Concordia University, (IL)	Idaho State University	Montclair State University
Ball State University	Coppin State College	Illinois Institute of Technology	Mount Mary College
Baylor College of Medicine	Cornell University	Illinois State University	Murray State University
Baylor University	Creighton University	Indiana State University	National University
Bloomsburg University of Penn.	Dartmouth College	Indiana University	Naval Postgraduate School
Boise State University	Drew University	Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Boston College	Drexel University	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	New Mexico State University
Boston University	Duquesne University	Iowa State University	New York Medical College
Bowling Green State University	East Carolina University	Jackson State University	New York University
Bradley University	East Central University	James Madison University	North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University
Brigham Young University	Eastern Illinois University	John Carroll University	North Carolina State University at Raleigh
Brown University	Eastern Kentucky University	Johns Hopkins University	North Dakota State University
Bryn Mawr College	Eastern Michigan University	Kansas State University	Northeastern Illinois University
Caldwell College	Eastern Washington University	Kent State University	Northern Arizona University
California Institute of Technology	Emerson College	Lamar University	Northern Illinois University
California State University, Bakersfield	Emory University	Langston University	Northern Michigan University
California State University, Fresno	Emporia State University	Lehigh University	Northwestern State University of Louisiana
California State University, Fullerton	Fayetteville State University	Lipscomb University	Northwestern University
California State University, Los Angeles	Fairmont State University	Loma Linda University	Nova Southeastern University
California State University, Northridge	Fielding Graduate Institute	Louisiana State University and A & M College	Oakland University
California State University, Sacramento	Florida A & M University	Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center	Ohio University
California State University, Stanislaus	Florida Atlantic University	Loyola Marymount University	Ohio State University
Case Western Reserve University	Florida International University	Loyola University of Chicago	Oklahoma State University
Catholic University of America	Florida State University	Marquette University	Old Dominion University
Central Michigan University	Fordham University	Marshall University	Oregon State University
Central Washington University	Fort Hays State University	Marywood University	Park University
City University of New York Graduate Center	Gallaudet University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Pennsylvania State University
	George Mason University		
	George Washington University		
	Georgetown University		

* This Resolution applies to offers of financial support only, not offers of admission.

CGS - Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees and Assistants (continued)

<p>Pepperdine University Pittsburg State University Polytechnic University of NYU Princeton University Purdue University Queens College of the City University of New York Radford University Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rice University Rockefeller University Rowan University Rutgers - New Brunswick Rutgers - Newark St. Bonaventure University St. Cloud State University St. John's University Saint Louis University San Diego State University San Francisco State University San Jose State University Santa Clara University Shippensburg University South Carolina State University South Dakota School of Mines & Technology South Dakota State University Southeast Missouri State University Southern Illinois University at Carbondale Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville Southern Methodist University Southern University A&M College Spalding University Stanford University State University of New York at Binghamton State University of New York - Upstate Medical University Stony Brook University Syracuse University Temple University Tennessee State University Tennessee Technological University Texas A & M International University Texas A & M University Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi Texas Christian University Texas Southern University Texas State University Texas Tech University Texas Woman's University Towson University Truman State University Tufts University Tulane University University at Buffalo, SUNY</p>	<p>University of Akron University of Alabama University of Alabama at Birmingham University of Alabama in Huntsville University of Alaska, Fairbanks University of Albany, State University of New York University of Arizona University of Arkansas University of Bridgeport University of California, Berkeley University of California, Davis University of California, Irvine University of California, Los Angeles University of California, Santa Cruz University of California, San Diego University of California, San Francisco University of California, Santa Barbara University of Central Arkansas University of Central Florida University of Chicago University of Cincinnati University of Colorado at Boulder University of Colorado at Denver University of Connecticut University of Dayton University of Delaware University of Denver University of the District of Columbia University of Florida University of Georgia University of Hartford University of Hawaii at Manoa University of Houston University of Idaho University of Illinois at Chicago University of Illinois at Springfield University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign University of Iowa University of Kansas University of Kentucky University of Louisiana at Lafayette University of Louisville University of Maine University of Maryland, Baltimore County University of Maryland, College Park University of Massachusetts Amherst University of Massachusetts Boston The University of Memphis University of Miami University of Michigan University of Minnesota University of Mississippi University of Missouri, Columbia University of Missouri, Kansas City University of Missouri, St. Louis</p>	<p>University of Montana University of Nebraska at Kearney University of Nebraska-Lincoln University of Nebraska at Omaha University of Nevada-Las Vegas University of Nevada-Reno University of New Hampshire University of New Haven University of New Mexico University of New Orleans University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of North Carolina at Charlotte University of North Carolina at Greensboro University of North Dakota University of North Texas University of North Texas Health Science Center - Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences University of Northern Colorado University of Northern Iowa University of Notre Dame University of Oklahoma University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center University of Oregon University of Pennsylvania University of Pittsburgh University of Puerto Rico - Rio Piedras Campus University of Rhode Island University of Rochester University of San Diego University of Scranton University of South Alabama University of South Carolina University of South Florida University of Southern California University of Southern Mississippi University of Tennessee at Chattanooga University of Tennessee, Knoxville University of Texas at Arlington University of Texas at Austin University of Texas at Brownsville University of Texas at Dallas University of Texas at San Antonio University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Science at Galveston University of Texas Grad School of Biomedical Science at Houston University of Texas Grad School of Biomedical Science at San Antonio University of the Pacific University of Toledo University of Tulsa University of Utah</p>	<p>University of Vermont University of Virginia University of Washington University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire University of Wisconsin - La Crosse University of Wisconsin - Madison University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee University of Wyoming Utah State University Valdosta State University Vanderbilt University Villanova University Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Wake Forest University Walden University Washington State University Washington University Wayne State College Wayne State University Wesleyan University West Chester University West Virginia University West Virginia Wesleyan College Western Carolina University Western Illinois University Western Kentucky University Western Michigan University Western Washington University Wichita State University Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Worcester Polytechnic Institute Wright State University Xavier University of Louisiana Yale University</p>
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