2019-20 Graduate program financial aid packaging policy and procedures

Packaging graduate students is a comprehensive awarding process that is administered as a partnership between the Graduate Programs and the Financial Aid Office. This allows for continuity and maintenance of the program. Foundation awards will remain under the control of the respective graduate program and will be awarded in accordance with the foundation fund criteria.

1. Americorps waiver – MPA and MES will be allocated $9,000 each for the year. MIT is allocated $5,400 for the three continuing students that received the waiver in 2018-19. These waivers will be awarded and administered by the respective graduate program, but the eligibility determination process for the waiver needs to be developed and clearly documented for audit purposes.
2. Merit Waiver - MPA and MES will be allocated $10,500 each for 2019-20. These waivers will be awarded and administered by the respective graduate program, but the eligibility determination process for the waiver needs to be developed and clearly documented for audit purposes.
3. Need-based waiver – Resident graduate students who file an ON-TIME FAFSA and have an EFC less than or equal to $1,000 will be awarded $1,500. Non-resident students who meet the same criteria will be awarded $6,000 in a need-based waiver. Students must attend at least 8 credits to be eligible for the waiver.
4. Evergreen Need Grant – Resident graduate students who file an ON-TIME FAFSA and have a zero EFC will be awarded $1,950. Non-resident students are not eligible for the Evergreen Need Grant, per state policy. Grant is pro-rated for less than full-time attendance, and student must be attending at least half-time (4 credits) to remain eligible for the grant.

Waiver conditions

* Combined waivers can never exceed the amount of tuition charged to a student’s account. If a single waiver or combined waivers exceed the amount of tuition charged, the amount of waiver will be reduced in consultation with the graduate program.
* Need-based waiver and Evergreen Need Grant awarded to students who are admitted, but don’t enroll or attend may not be automatically redistributed to other students if funding has been exhausted due to over-awarding practices.
* Timing of need-based award offers will occur as much as possible in coordination with the Graduate Programs’ admissions cycle.

Merit and Americorps awarding by Program

Merit and Americorps waivers will be administered solely by the graduate programs. Notifying recipients of their merit and Americorps waiver funding is solely the responsibility of the graduate program. The graduate program should then notify the Financial Aid Office with an organized list of recipients for inclusion into the student’s package. When possible award amounts should be evenly distributed across Fall, Winter, and Spring in order to minimize uneven loan revisions and confusion for the student. A current written waiver policy addressing how the recipients and award amounts were determined should be kept on file with the applicable graduate program, and made available should an auditor request it.