



Action Agenda for Controlling Costs and Optimizing the Value of Graduate Degrees

Addressing the financial and structural challenges facing graduate education requires a multifaceted approach that includes research, institutional action, and federal policy reforms.

Funders should support:

- Research on shrinking graduate cohorts and outcomes
- Research on cost-effective funding and delivery models
- Topical initiatives and convenings

Employers should:

- Advocate for investments in graduate education in the U.S. workforce
- Advocate for policies that incentivize employer tuition assistance programs
- Explore opportunities to provide funded internships to current graduate students

U.S. Graduate Schools should:

- Increase cost transparency
- Enhance transparency in financial support offers
- Ensure clear expectations about time-to-degree
- Enhance graduate student services

The Federal Government and Congress should:

- Expand Pell Grants to graduate education
- Sustain the Graduate PLUS Loan Program
- Support loan forgiveness programs
- Eliminate capitalized student loan interest and origination fees
- Support employer tuition assistance
- Support mandatory loan counseling for graduate students

Current and prospective graduate students should:

- Seek information about the return-on-investment of different degree types in the fields where they will pursue graduate study
- Request information about career outcomes and time-to-degree from the universities to which they are applying