

GRFP Top Tips: Fellows

Welcome! This guide serves as a resource on the responsibilities of an NSF GRFP fellow. Fellows must be enrolled full-time in an eligible graduate degree program for the duration of their fellowship. Please thoroughly and carefully read the GRFP Administrative Guide, Section 2, Fellow Responsibilities & Information, and comply with all requirements to retain the fellowship.

[GRFP Administrative Guide Link](#)

Award Information

The NSF GRFP Award is a five-year continuing grant with three years of financial support managed and disbursed by the Institution of Higher Education (IHE) to the individual fellow.

Communication

A fellow's first and best point of contact is their GRFP Coordinating Official (CO). Fellows should consult the CO, who will contact NSF on their behalf. A list of all Coordinating Officials can be found on the [GRFP Institution Directory](#).

Stipend and Cost of Education (COE)

Fellows receive an annual stipend in the amount of \$37,000. For payment purposes, 1 month stipend = 14 or more days in a calendar month. COE allowance is provided directly to the institution, in lieu of tuition and mandatory fees.

Transferring Institutions

Fellows are permitted to request a transfer of institutions at any point during the fellowship year via the GRFP Online Module. See Administrative Guide, section 2.5 page 9 for more information.

Reporting Requirements

All fellows are required to complete two tasks by the deadline specified in the GRFP Online Module. Failure to complete reporting requirements may lead to termination.

1) Submit the Annual Activities Report with the signed Academic/Research Advisor Confirmation Form (Typically Due in May)

- Continuing Fellows must submit the Annual Activities Report with the signed Academic/Research Advisor form no later than the date specified in the GRFP Online Module. Fellows will not be permitted to declare status until this step is complete.

2) Declare Fellowship year status (Due by Mid-May)

- Fellows must declare their status by the deadline specified in the GRFP Online Module. Except in the case of Medical or Military Leave, all fellows must be enrolled full-time and in a graduate degree program as specified in the Administrative Guide.

Fellow Status Classifications

Fellows may submit status change requests in the GRFP Online Module, which require CO approval prior to NSF review. The statuses are as follows:

- **Tenure** – Receiving GRFP Stipend and COE.
- **Reserve** – Not funded by GRFP but still enrolled/engaged in institution.
- **Forfeit** – Fellow is "On Tenure" but forfeits part of Tenure year to pursue other professional development activities. *Forfeited stipend is nonrecoverable.*
- **Completed with Degree** – Fellow has graduated and is no longer eligible for support.
- **Terminated** – Fellow voluntarily ends fellowship.

Medical/Military Leave – Institutions must keep fellows enrolled at the institution to maintain GRFP eligibility.

- **On Medical Leave** – Fellow on medical or family care leave from the institution.
- **On Military Leave** – Fellow's studies are interrupted or paused for military service duties.

External Activities/Supplemental Funding

Fellows are permitted to pursue professional development opportunities, such as internships and traineeships, but must adhere to their IHE policies pertaining to the GRFP fellowship and paid activities.

Supplemental Funding – Fellows are permitted to solicit and accept, from NSF or other federal and private sources, support for research expenses. Examples of supplemental funding opportunities at NSF include (but are not limited to):

- NSF INTERN
- NSF Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED)
- NSF Career-Life Balance (CLB)

Individual Federal Fellowships – Regardless of status, GRFP fellowships cannot be concurrently accepted or combined with support from another *individual* federal graduate fellowship.

