

Strategic policy for awarding aid to incoming students and continuing aid to current students.

The department has the following forms of financial aid:

1. RA's
2. TA's
3. Fellowships from the graduate school
4. Fellowships from the block grant

1. RA's

RA's are and will continue to be the responsibility of the faculty PI of the grant. The graduate committee can help the faculty if there is the need to identify a potentially good new applicant.

2. TA's

The graduate committee will select new TA's with input from the technical group in charge of teaching the course that the student will be a TA for. During the selection of new TA's, priority will be given to good U.S. students. For laboratory TA's students may require one year research before being able to serve as lab TA's (could be requested by course instructor). TA's will be awarded for a 9 months. In extreme circumstances, a second academic year appointment could be awarded if:

The student is performing well as TA, maintains a good GPA and is getting involved in research activities. For a second Year TA, the student must have a research advisor and the advisor must petition the second year TA on his/her behalf. Under no circumstances a second year will be awarded to MS-scholarly paper students. However, students and their advisors an urge to seek external funding for subsequent years as priority should be given to recruit good new students.

3. and 4 . Fellowships from the graduate school and block grant

The department normally can submit 2-3 extremely good applicants (GPA >3.8 and GRE's above the 700's for analytical and quantitative). For these slots we make the nominations and the graduate school selects the recipients. If awarded and the student chooses not to join us, we loose these slots. They are 1-year fellowships for MS students and 2 years for PhD students.

We propose the following protocol to select students:

We can select students two ways:

The graduate committee will identify extremely good applicants and will identify a possible recruiter in the student's interest area. The possible recruiter, if interested, will contact the student and identify the likelihood that this student would come to UMCP. Also, the possible recruiter will need to be an advocate for the student in identifying common research interests.

A faculty interested in a new student can present his/her application to the committee and request to be considered for fellowship nomination. At this point the faculty should indicate prior interactions with the students and an evaluation of the likelihood that the student will come to UMCP.

Once a list of candidates has been generated, the ones with best academic qualifications will be submitted to the graduate school and the rest considered for the block grant (we may have a maximum of 3 slots).

For the final selection, the following will be used to set priorities:

PhD students before MS students.

Students that may work with an Assistant Professor.

Distribution of students with departmental/university aid among technical groups/advisors.

Likelihood that the advisor can support the student beyond the fellowship.