

Graduate Student Supplements (GRASS)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the GRASS Request for Proposals (RFP) as of **October 2, 2026**, which was the last day to answer questions.

Proposals Due: October 23, 2026

Question:

My question pertains to the eligibility criteria for students. Under the "Award Information" Section it states "Students who hold fellowships with no work requirements are not eligible to receive these supplements. It is not the purpose of these funds to support students already fully funded by another federal/state agency," but the eligibility sections states preference is given for student who are PhD students in relevant STEM Disciplines, which are almost always funded students. Is the intention that students funded with a GRASS award are PhD students who do not have any funding sources, or are students who receive funding through a Graduate Research Assistantship eligible? Later in the section there are references to GRASS augmenting student payment, which I presume would be from some other funding source. Hopefully this conveys my confusion regarding the language and eligibility.

Answer:

No, GRASS is not intended to support students with no existing research funding. GRASS is intended to supplement an existing source of funds such as a research fellowship or research assistantship. This program seeks to attract and retain outstanding graduate students.

Question:

I am writing to you because last year (2025) a call for applications called Graduate Student Supplements (GRASS) was released, which unfortunately I wasn't able to apply for at the time.

My question is: will this call for applications also be open this year 2026?

Answer:

Yes, GRASS is currently open and accepting applications. Please see our website, [LA-NEXT Funding Opportunities – LA Office of Sponsored Programs](#).

Question:

The PI and his student are recipients of 2026 GRASS grant funds. The term of the grant ends December 31, 2026. He is interested in applying for a renewal which is explained in the RFP. A question has arisen, however. The student who is currently working with him will be graduating

in May of 2027. Can the PI apply for a funding renewal for continuation of this project given this timeline?

Answer:

Unfortunately, this program is for one year. Therefore, this student would not be eligible.

Question:

I have a question about the suggested timeline for the GRASS program. As I read it, the criteria say that preference is given to faculty in their first/second year but also for PhD students close to graduation. How does this typically work?

I am a new faculty at Tulane; I'll be hiring graduate students beginning in January 2027 and am interested in this program.

Answer:

Preference may be given to two categories: early career faculty and PhD students that are near graduation. These are among the factors that may be considered in the review process but are not required for consideration.

Question:

My PI is currently an assistant professor within her first five years and is still using start-up funding to support my research. I am currently working 40 hours per week as a research assistant. In this situation, would I still be eligible to apply for this GRASS fund?

I am currently studying in the United States on an F-1 visa. Would my visa status affect my eligibility to apply for this GRASS fund?

Answer:

Yes, a research assistant working full-time (20 hours/week) is eligible for GRASS. There are no citizenship requirements.

Question:

I am interested in submitting a proposal to the FY 2026–27 GRASS program. However, when I log into LOGAN, I do not see a GRASS submission option (you can see below captured page).

Could you please let me know whether the GRASS submission module has not yet been opened, or if there is another process I should follow?

I also noticed that the MS form available on the GRASS webpage appears to be different from the form included at the end of the RFP (PDF). Could you please confirm which version applicants should use?

Answer:

The GRASS module is now active in LOGAN. Please let us know if you have any further issues accessing the proposal module. The forms at the end of the RFP are the correct forms. MS word forms have been updated on the website, [LA-NEXT Funding Opportunities – LA Office of Sponsored Programs](#).

Question:

In the application for GRASS 2026, there is a section called "Personal Information." I am from Colombia (Latin America), but in this section, there is no option related to Latin America. What should I select then? Could I add the option?

Answer:

Yes, you can add that option.

Question:

The only options to the online application on LOGAN are institutional log in and PI log in. I do not know whether I have to complete the student application through my PI or submit a separate application. The option for the institutional login requires the institutional password, which I do not know or have access to.

I would be grateful if you could help clarify whether as a student, I am to complete my GRASS application through my PI or individually or through the institution.

Answer:

The GRASS proposal should be completed by the Principal Investigator and submitted to the institutional sponsored programs office. The sponsored programs office will officially submit the proposal to the Board of Regents. Please contact your OSP office if you have additional questions about this process.

Question:

I am interested in applying for the grass program, but I need some clarifications on the following questions:

- Are international students (non-US citizen, non-permanent resident)
- Are we expected to include preliminary data in the proposal?

Answer:

There are no citizenship requirements to be eligible for GRASS. Please refer to Section B.8 Proposal Format for proposal requirements.

Question:

The document states that participating in the LA-NEXT annual meeting is mandatory and that funds must be allocated for it, but I haven't been able to find information about this event. I'm not sure if there is a registration fee, etc.

What amount should we allocate for this event to comply with the guidelines of the call?

Answer:

The LA-NEXT annual meeting will be held in April 2027 in Baton Rouge. Registration information will be sent to all recipients of LA-NEXT awards as soon as it becomes available. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided at the meeting. Registration is free. Travel funds are to be allocated for lodging and mileage expenses, if needed. Please refer to the state travel guidelines for costing purposes, [PPM 49 - TRAVEL GUIDE - Louisiana Division of Administration](#).

Question:

Can I submit both a new application for another student and renewal of the current one at the same time for this call?

Answer:

Per the RFP, "To maximize the statewide impact of the supplements, each PI is limited to 1 application."

Question:

I am just reaching out again regarding the GRASS renewal because I see that the proposal is live on LOGAN, however, I am a current recipient and there is a clause in the RFP that states:

"B.5 Renewal

The PI may apply for accomplishment-based renewal of the supplement in subsequent years."

I am not sure how this renewal works. Is there a different process to apply to continue my current project, or do I reapply in the same process for a new GRASS proposal? If I reapply with a new GRASS proposal, can it be for the same project that I previously received the award for?

Answer:

Please see the current GRASS RFP, [LA-NEXT Funding Opportunities – LA Office of Sponsored Programs](#), and follow the guidelines for submitting a renewal application.

Question:

Our office is interested to know if graduate student fringe is required for this proposal? It mentions in the RFP that tuition remission and fees are not allowed. Would fringe be considered “fees”? There is also a section that states “funds not allocated for travel must go directly to augment the compensation of the graduate student.” Would the compensation be payment to the GA and fringe?

Answer:

Fringe is not an allowable cost. GRASS is intended to exclusively provide \$10,000 (if no travel is being requested) on top of the existing salary or stipend paid to the student.

Question:

With the help of my advisor, I am in the process of applying for GRASS funding. I am writing to ask whether I can use the funding provided through GRASS to purchase laboratory supplies/materials needed for my research. Could you please let me know if lab supplies are an allowable expense under the funding, and if these are required to be mentioned in the budget document?

Answer:

Per the RFP, “Funds not allocated for travel must go directly to augment the compensation of the graduate student.” GRASS is intended to exclusively provide \$10,000 (if no travel is being requested) on top of the existing salary or stipend paid to the student.

Question:

First, Section B.3 of the RFP states that recipients are expected not to be assigned teaching duties, and Section B.7 asks the mentor to provide a 20 hour/week Research Assistant position through existing funds. My prospective student is a full-time PhD candidate currently supported by a UL Graduate School dissertation completion award. Would this student be eligible for a GRASS supplement? If so, would his appointment need to be converted to a research assistantship for the performance period, or could a teaching assistantship be combined with a documented 20 hours per week of research effort on the proposed project?

Second, this student expects to complete his PhD in May 2027. Section B.3 requires the student to be registered for each term of the performance period, which is anticipated to run from January 1 to December 31, 2027. Would a student graduating at the end of the Spring 2027

term be eligible for a shortened performance period (January through May 2027), and if so, would the award amount be prorated?

Answer:

A combined teaching and research assistantship is not eligible for GRASS. GRASS is for a research fellowship or research assistantship only. GRASS is a full-year program. A shortened performance period is not allowable.

Question:

I am the research adviser of the EESC PhD program student, who is working with me on Gulf of America hurricane, infrastructure, and environment monitoring with advanced robotic platforms. The project is fully aligned with several First Louisiana 2030 priorities, including resilient infrastructure, clean energy and environmental solution. We would like to apply for the GRASS funding. The student currently has a hybrid support through TA and RA assistantship and tuition paid by UL. I am checking if he is qualified to apply for the award.

Answer:

A combined teaching and research assistantship is not eligible for GRASS. GRASS is for a research fellowship or research assistantship only.

Question:

I am an M.S. in Informatics student at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and I am interested in applying to the GRASS program.

However, I have a question. That is, can a GRASS recipient complete an MS in May 2027 and transition into a Ph.D. program at the same institution beginning Fall 2027, and if so, how should the required 20-hour GRA appointment be handled during the period between the two degree programs?

Answer:

You must be continuously supported during the full year of GRASS, including during the summer, which is presumably the transition period.

Question:

I am writing to seek clarification regarding the GRASS program and the process for proposal renewal. One of my students was awarded a GRASS project last year, which is currently ongoing and progressing well. The preliminary results from this work have already been published at ICLR 2026, and two additional papers are currently under review for ICLR 2027, with more manuscripts in preparation.

Given the strong progress and continued research potential, we believe that an extension or renewal of this project would be highly beneficial. In this regard, I would like to ask whether a

renewal proposal should follow the same process as a new submission, as outlined in the current RFP, including using the same project framework and methodology.

Additionally, I would appreciate clarification on the proposal submission limits. If we submit a renewal proposal, would that count as the single allowed submission under the current cap? Or would it be permissible to submit both one renewal proposal and one new GRASS proposal concurrently?

Thank you very much for your time and guidance. I look forward to your response.

Answer:

The renewal proposal should follow the same project framework described in the RFP and include products only that acknowledged support from U.S. NSF OIA-2437963. Per the RFP, "Each PI is limited to 1 application." Thus, the PI would have to decide between a renewal or new application.

Question:

1. Since the renewal proposal deadline is in October, are we expected to submit the final report before submitting the renewal proposal, or will the report be due after the renewal submission?
2. If the report is required before the renewal submission, I do not see GRASS listed under my active contracts in LOGAN yet. Also, the **Guidelines for Completing Annual/Interim and Final Reports** PDF does not seem to be working.

Answer:

1. You should follow the deadline in the contract for all reporting deadlines. Therefore, the report will be due after the renewal submission.
2. The report function is not currently active in LOGAN for EPSCoR awards. Please submit the report using the following link, <https://laregents.jotform.com/261973011707051>.

Question:

1. I am a rising third-year tenure-track assistant professor and the PI of one active GRASS award at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Am I still eligible for GRASS application with another student and different proposed research? If so, would my current GRASS have any negative impact on my new GRASS application and my current GRASS renewal application, respectively?
2. Is there any citizenship/permanent residency requirement for the student applicant?
3. What materials are required for the renewal application of my current GRASS award? I note Section B.9 of the current RFP. Are publications currently under review or revision considered as Accomplishments as in the evaluation criteria?

Answer:

1. Yes, you are eligible to submit a new application for GRASS. The current GRASS award ends on December 31, 2026. The period of performance for the new GRASS is to be January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027.
2. International students are eligible for GRASS. There are no citizenship requirements.
3. Yes, publications currently under consideration should be noted in the Accomplishments section.

Question:

1. Is a student currently supported by a TA appointment eligible to receive the GRASS supplement?
2. My research focuses on Drug Discovery using AI. Would this fall under the priority area of FIRST Louisiana?

Answer:

1. A teaching assistantship is not eligible. GRASS is for a research fellowship or research assistantship only.
2. The priority areas are listed on the cover page on the RFP, and a link to the State Science & Technology Plan is provided in the RFP.

Question:

For the budget, do PIs typically just budget \$10k towards RA of a student? Or some for travel, or equipment?

Answer:

Per the RFP, "Up to \$2,000 of the supplement may be used for the student to attend conferences or workshops which will enhance the student the student's learning experience and preparation for conducting research. Funds not allocated for travel must go directly to augment the compensation of the graduate student." GRASS is intended to exclusively provide \$10,000 (if no travel is being requested) on top of the existing salary or stipend paid to the student.

Question:

1. International students: Are graduate students on an F-1 student visa eligible for the GRASS supplement? The RFP does not mention citizenship or residency.
2. State-agency funding (Sections B.3 and B.7): My 20 hr/week research assistantship is funded through a research contract with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), a state agency. Would this count as being "fully funded by another federal/state agency" under B.3, making me ineligible? Or does it meet the B.7 requirement that the mentor provide assistantship funding from existing grants?
3. Year in program: Are first-year PhD students eligible, given that students close to graduation receive scoring priority?
4. PI appointment type: I did not understand this one. Does it affect eligibility, or only scoring?
5. New-faculty preference (Section B.2): Does it affect eligibility, or only scoring?

Answer:

1. International students are eligible for GRASS. There are no citizenship requirements.
2. This would meet the requirements listed under section B.7.
3. First-year PhD students are eligible. Graduation date may be a factor in the review process but is not a requirement.
4. This is an eligibility requirement. Per section. B.2 Eligibility of the RFP, "The mentor, who is also the PI for the supplement, must hold a tenure-track or tenured faculty position."
5. New-faculty preference may be a factor in the review process but is not a requirement.