

1. VISION and BACKGROUND

This document outlines the Graduate Program Enhancement (GPE) initiative.

It is the goal of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley to establish robust masters and doctoral programs as a means of achieving Emerging Research University status, of significantly contributing to well-being of the region, and of providing its students educational opportunities of the highest quality.

It is the intent of the institution that online, accelerated, and traditional graduate programs complement each other.

2. FUNDING

The GPE initiative will be funded with a distribution of 50% of board-authorized tuition (BAT) generated by all graduate programs, accelerated and traditional, net of exemptions.

- a) The apportionment of funds to the GPE initiative will be based on the trailing fiscal year actuals.
- b) Recommended GPE expense budgets will be developed by the dean of the Graduate College and the Deputy Provost and approved by the Provost.
- c) Activities to be funded shall include consideration of feedback from each college dean.
- d) GPE funds may be used to support activities that include, but are not limited to, marketing, recruitment, development of proposals that will enhance graduate programs, travel associated with student and faculty graduate program activities, faculty development activities, collaborations, curriculum development, meeting with or participating in discussions with funding agencies, graduate assistantships, purchase of equipment, equipment maintenance, hiring of non-permanent technical staff, and renovation of graduate program spaces.
- e) Unexpended balances at fiscal year-end will carry forward into each subsequent fiscal year until expended.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- a. The award of funds to enhancement activities shall be made in a manner that ensures that both new and ongoing masters and doctoral programs are given consideration.
- b. GPE funds shall be considered soft monies. Hiring of permanent employees with GPE funds is discouraged. Employees hired with GPE funds must be notified that the position is contingent on continued funding.
- c. A variety of factors shall be considered in allocating GPE funds, it shall not be required that funding be in proportion to program revenues. For example, consideration shall be given to the need to subsidize new and emerging programs, including initiatives that encourage transition of undergraduate and masters students' into masters and doctoral programs, respectively.

4. ASSESSMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAM COSTS

The Planning and Analysis office, working with the Graduate College staff and the academic budget director, shall at the direction of the executive vice president for finance and administration periodically study and report on the direct and indirect costs associated with graduate programs.