# Master of Public Administration Graduate Student Handbook California State University, Fresno Department of Political Science

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## Introduction to the MPA Handbook

Dear MPA Students:

Welcome to the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at California State University, Fresno!

The following is a handbook that provides important information to guide you on your journey through the MPA program. It walks you through the following aspects of university and program policy:

- · Program mission and goals
- · Lifecycle of MPA students (admission to graduation)
- · Curriculum
- · MPA program courses
- · Contacts for additional information

While the handbook contains a comprehensive treatment of the topics, it is not a replacement for seeking advice from the program director. Students should meet with the program director every semester to discuss course selection and progress in the program. In addition to regular meetings, students should make sure to meet with the program director at important milestones in the program (e.g., classification, advancement to candidacy, culminating experience, and graduation). If students are placed on academic probation or academically disqualified, they will need to meet with the program director.

On behalf of me and the rest of the MPA program faculty, we wish to extend our congratulations on your admission to the program. We will work with you to help you achieve both your program and professional goals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bick

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# Introduction to the MPA Program

The MPA Program at California State University, Fresno is accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA). The MPA program builds on the belief effective administration and leadership of public and nonprofit organizations require the development of critical thinking and analytical skills, as well as an appreciation for ethical decision-making. It is this belief that provides the foundation for the mission and goals of the MPA program.

#### Mission:

- The MPA program teaches competencies in public and nonprofit administration that allow students to effectively and ethically serve the public interest.
- The MPA program prepares students to lead and manage public and/or nonprofit organizations; to educate both elected officials and the citizenry about public policy tradeoffs; and to facilitate an understanding among diverse perspectives on a given policy issue.
- The MPA program provides educational opportunities for students to develop analytical and critical thinking skills; to appreciate and engage in ethical decision making; and to have the ability to communicate effectively with individuals of diverse social backgrounds.
- The MPA program seeks to develop and educate a student population that reflects a diversity of social, academic, and professional backgrounds.

#### Goals:

- Students will be able to use knowledge of public administration and/or nonprofit management theory, research, and practice to evaluate public policy issues.
- Students will be able to think critically about issues facing public and nonprofit administrators and policymakers .
- Students will be able to use both analytical skills and ethical principles to respond to public policy issues.
- Students will be able to communicate effectively in oral and written presentations.
- The MPA program will recruit, admit, enroll, retain, and graduate a student population with a diverse social, academic, and professional background.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

- 1.) Acquire skills necessary to lead and manage in the public interest
- 2.) Acquire and enhance skills to participate in, and contribute to, the policy process
- 3.) Acquire skills to analyze, synthesize, think critically, solve problems and make evidence-informed decisions in a complex and dynamic environment
- 4.) Acquire and enhance skills to articulate, apply, and advance a public service perspective
- 5.) Acquire skills to communicate and interact productively and in culturally responsive ways with a diverse and changing workforce and society at large

## Admission Requirements

Applicants may qualify for admission to the program and thereby take program courses by achieving classified or conditionally classified graduate standing. Classified standing requires:

- 1. An acceptable baccalaureate degree from an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association.
- 2. Good standing at the last college attended.
- 3. Submission to the university of the following materials: online university application form (<u>CAL State Apply</u>); fee for online university application form; transcripts of university work; and TOEFL or IELTS scores if required by university.
- 4. Submission to the MPA program of the following materials via (<u>CAL State Apply</u>); MPA program application form; a written statement indicating why the applicant wishes to pursue an MPA degree and the expected benefits of the degree; and two letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation evaluate both the motivation and intellectual ability of the applicant.
- 5. Recommendation for admission by the Admissions Committee of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) Program: Candidates will be recommended on the promise they show for successfully completing the program and achieving a successful career in public or nonprofit administration. To receive classified standing, applicants must meet ALL of the following requirements. Applicants that meet some, but not all, of the listed standards may receive conditionally classified standing. Candidates will be evaluated using a combination of criteria:
  - A. Grade point average: Applicants need a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average to be eligible for classified standing. Applicants must possess a minimum of a 2.70 cumulative grade point average to be considered for conditionally classified standing.
  - B. Statement of Purpose: Applicants must explain their reasons for wanting to pursue the MPA degree. As part of this statement of purpose, applicants may list their professional experience and goals. They may also list relevant personal experiences. The statement of purpose should be limited to 500 words. It should respond to the following prompt: What are your reasons for pursuing the MPA degree? What benefits do you expect to gain from your degree?
  - C. Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must submit **TWO** letters of recommendation. These letters should speak to the applicant's motivations to pursue and abilities (both intellectually and professionally) to complete the MPA degree. These letters may be submitted by those in a position to evaluate the applicant's motivations and abilities. This includes but is not limited to the following: current or former course instructors or work supervisors who have extensive work experience with the applicant. Letters should be written by professional contacts; letters from family members will not be considered.
  - D. English Proficiency: Applicants whose native language is not English must also achieve a minimum of 80 iBT on the TOEFL or 6.5 overall on the IELTS.
  - E. Writing Sample: Applicants must submit a writing sample of no less than 5 pages double-spaced. The writing sample should be an academic paper from their undergraduate degree program if completed within the last five years. If the undergraduate degree was completed prior to 5 years ago, the sample should be a well-

researched paper about a topic you would be interested in learning more about in the MPA program. Examples could derive from public management, public policy, human resources, government services, etc. Samples must be well-written and well-researched, with proper citations provided. They must be the original work of the student and sole-authored.

6. MPA Graduate Program Application Filing Period: The deadline for applications to the graduate program is April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year for Fall Admission. The deadline for Spring applications is November 1<sup>st</sup>. The graduate admissions committee will not consider incomplete applications and those received after the specified dates.

# Additional Details About Academic Standing

## **Conditionally Classified:**

The applicant granted conditionally classified graduate standing has been admitted to the university but has not yet satisfied all program admission requirements. The Admissions Committee of the MPA program grants conditionally classified standing if applicants have met some but not all of the program's admission standards. Additional conditions of admission are assigned to the applicant if they wish to accept admission to the MPA program. Conditionally classified students must satisfy the additional conditions to continue in the MPA program. If the conditions are satisfied, the MPA program director will file a "classified graduate standing request" form.

#### Classified:

The applicant who has been granted classified graduate standing has been admitted to the university and fulfilled all program admission requirements.

#### Administrative Academic Probation (AAP) & Disqualification:

Graduate students are automatically placed on AAP by the university system when their cumulative GPA falls below the minimum GPA of 3.0 required by Title 5, California State Education Code. Upon review, a graduate evaluator will determine if the AAP notation can be removed for students who are advanced to candidacy based on coursework listed on the Petition of Advancement to Candidacy. Students enrolled in graduate programs are required to maintain a minimum 3.0 post-baccalaureate cumulative grade point average (GPA) prior to advancement to candidacy. Once students have advanced to candidacy, they must maintain a minimum 3.0 program GPA, which includes only coursework listed on the Petition for Advancement to Candidacy. Students who do not meet the above criteria will be placed on Administrative Academic Probation (AAP). Graduate students are automatically disqualified by the university system when their post-baccalaureate GPA falls below 2.00. Graduate students who are placed on AAP (Administrative Academic Probation) for any two semesters will be disqualified from the university. Unlike undergraduates, graduate students who are academically disqualified after the posting of semester grades will not be given automatic readmission to the university for the following semester.

# Master of Public Administration Requirements

## **Degree Requirements**

Core (1	18 ι	ınits)
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MPA 200	Administration and Society	Units: 3
MPA 201	Quantitative Application for Public Administration	Units: 3
MPA 210	Organizational Theory in Public Administration MPA	Units: 3
MPA 230	Public Budgeting	Units: 3
MPA 245	Human Resources Management	Units: 3
MPA 260	Public Policy Administration	Units: 3
Additional C	Core Electives (6 units)	
MPA 215	State and Local Government	Units: 3
MPA 240	Seminar in Public Management	Units: 3
MPA 250	Ethics and Public Administration	Units: 3
MPA 280T	Topics in Public Administration	Units: 3
Approved E	lectives (3-15 units)	
Practitioner	Seminars (0-6 units)	
MPA 289T	Practitioner Seminars	Units: 1-3
Internship (	0-3 units)	
MPA 287	Internship in Public Administration	Units: 3
Independen	t Study (0-6 units)	
MPA 290	Independent Study	Units: 3
Capstone (3	B units)	
MPA 298	Capstone	Units: 3
Thesis (0-3	units)	
MPA 299	Thesis	Units: 3

#### **Minimum Total: 36 units**

All students will be required to take 24 core units; 18 of these core units are prescribed for students. The remaining six (6) core units must be selected from the courses listed under the "Additional Core" heading. Students may take more than two courses listed under the "Additional Core" heading. If they do, these courses will count towards meeting their "Approved Electives" requirement. MPA students may also choose to take units offered as Practitioner Seminars (MPA 289T). Pre-service or in-service students with less than six months of

experience in the public or non-profit sector will be advised to take <u>MPA 287</u>. This will provide them with both valuable learning and working experience. Students also have the option of taking MPA 290 (Independent Study), which allows them to undertake in-depth research on a selected topic.

To culminate their MPA experience, students admitted starting in Fall 2024 may choose either the comprehensive exam, capstone class, or thesis. Students beginning Spring 2025 and after may choose between the capstone class or thesis. The comprehensive exam does not count for any units towards the degree but does satisfy the requirement that students be provided with a culminating experience to their program and may be chosen by students who start prior to Spring 2025. The capstone class (MPA 298) is worth three (3) units toward the degree and satisfies the culminating experience requirement. Beginning in Spring 2026, the capstone class will be offered every spring semester. The thesis (MPA 299) is worth three (3) units toward the degree and also satisfies the culminating experience requirement.

Approved elective courses may be used to build on the foundation of the program's core offerings. The courses to be used as electives in the MPA program are to be chosen in consultation with the student's advisor and must be approved by the MPA director. The students' selection of electives should be guided by their interest in a particular course/topic and its relationship to the practice of public administration.

## **Culminating Experience**

## **Capstone Class Option**

**Capstone:** A capstone is a culminating course taken in the MPA program. It will allow students the opportunity to apply their knowledge from the core classes to a unifying project. They will utilize research and writing skills throughout the course of the semester. A faculty member will oversee their work and may structure the capstone class in slightly different ways. The capstone will help students synthesize their learning in the MPA program. Most students will take the capstone class.

#### **Eligibility:**

MPA students are eligible to register for the Capstone course if they have met the following conditions:

- (1) Completed at least 24 units in their program of study;
- (2) Completed a minimum of FOUR core courses and be concurrently enrolled in the remaining TWO the semester they wish to take their capstone class;
- (3) Completed the following courses in the program (MPA 200, MPA 201, and MPA 210, MPA 260); AND (4) Started the program in Fall 2024 and thereafter.

#### **Thesis Option**

**Thesis**: A thesis is the written product of the systematic study of a significant problem. It clearly identifies the problem, states the major assumptions, explains the significance of the undertaking, sets forth the sources for and methods of gathering information, analyzes the data, and offers a conclusion or recommendation. The finished product must evidence originality,

critical and independent thinking, appropriate organization and format, clarity of purpose, and accurate and thorough documentation. Critical and independent thinking should characterize every thesis. Mere description, cataloging, compilation, and other superficial procedures are not adequate.

MPA 299A: Thesis 3 (units) MPA 299B if students need an additional semester. Note: Students will coordinate with their thesis chairs when best to take independent studies and thesis courses. Once a student registers for 299A, they are locked into the thesis option and must complete it to graduate.

#### **Content Summary:**

- The thesis is a highly structured document resulting from original student research.
- The thesis investigates specific, well-defined questions or issues, frequently forming hypotheses to be tested.
- The thesis relates to an existing body of theoretical or empirical knowledge in the field.

See the MPA Thesis Checklist for Additional Information:

#### Fresno State MPA Thesis Information & Suggestions

**Eligibility Criteria:** An approved "Petition of Advancement to Candidacy" form must be on file with the Division of Graduate Studies one semester prior to signing up for thesis units in the department. You must also receive permission from the graduate director before proceeding with a thesis. You should talk with the graduate director during your first year in the program if you plan to complete the thesis.

#### Paperwork:

- "Thesis (299) Committee Assignment" form (available at the graduate studies office and online via the "Forms" link on the Graduate Studies website). This form should be filed with the Division of Graduate Studies before or at the time of the student's first registration for thesis units in the department.
- Signatures of all committee members, the graduate coordinator or department chair, and the college dean (if indicated) are required. See the "Thesis Committee Policy and Procedures" in the "Thesis" section of the Graduate Studies website.
- For a third, off-campus committee member, a curriculum vita or resume must be submitted with the TCA form to the Graduate Studies.
- For changes in committee chair, second, or third committee members, or in the thesis topic, a "Change in Thesis (299) Committee and/or Topic" form (available at the graduate studies website and online via the "Forms" link on the Graduate Studies website) must be on file in the Division of Graduate Studies.
- "Human/Animal Subjects Clearance" form, as applicable. To be submitted to the student's departmental Human/Animal Subjects Clearance committee.

- Research involving human subjects should not begin until written approval has been received from the departmental human subjects committee and, where review demands, the university Committee on the Protection of Human Subjects (CPHS). Guidelines and forms for protocols can be obtained from the departmental office or online
- Research involving live animals on campus must receive approval from the Animal Care and Use Committee. Forms may be obtained from the departmental or college dean's office.
- The "Graduate Degree Clearance" form, with required signatures, must be submitted to Graduate Studies by the posted deadline. The grade for thesis units is recorded on this form by the thesis chair on behalf of the committee and given to the graduate coordinator/ director for final processing.

#### **Deadlines:**

- Final thesis submission: Approximately seven weeks before the last day of classes.
   (Consult the Class Schedule, University Catalog, or the "Dates & Deadlines" section of the Grad Studies website for exact dates.)
- Publication copy: Date assigned by thesis consultant after review of final submission.

#### **Procedure:**

- Thesis format must follow the university Guidelines for Thesis Preparation (available from the Kennel Bookstore, lower level, or electronically from the "Thesis" section of the Grad Studies Website).
- Theses are submitted to the Dissertation/Thesis Office in two stages: initial review by the thesis consultant (final submission) and clearance review of the corrected final copy for binding (publication copy). In approving both submissions, the committee signifies that the form and content of the thesis meet Title 5 regulations (see Catalog definition above) as well as program standards.
- Thesis committees are formed according to guidelines established by the Graduate Committee of the Academic Senate. The committee consists of three members; the chair and at least one other committee member must be appointed members of the department's Graduate Faculty Group of the student's degree program. With requisite expertise, an individual who is not a member of the department faculty in the student's program may serve as a member, with the approval of the department chair. (See the "Thesis" section of the Graduate Studies website for "Thesis Committee Policy and Procedures.")
- When approved for quality, format, and style, the graduate dean signs off on the Publication Copy approval page.
- In order for the thesis consultant to grant final thesis clearance, students are required to have submitted the following:
  - o Thesis fees form with the imprint from the University Cashier showing payment of fees for thesis microfilming, binding, and UMI (ProQuest) processing, and the optional copyrighting and mailing.

- o Three copies of the laser-printed thesis: one for the department, one for the library, and one for microfilming. Note: The Kennel Print and Copy Center and the Thesis Office will handle copying and processing, after fee payment.
- o "Permission to Publish Copyrighted Material" form(s), as applicable (available from the "Thesis" section of the Grad Studies Website).
- In order for the graduate evaluator to register final thesis clearance or the degree, the final grade for the thesis must have been recorded on the "Graduate Degree Clearance" form.

**Graduation Required Student Paperwork:** The "Graduate Degree Application" form (available at the Graduate Studies office and online via the "Forms" link on the Graduate Studies site a couple of weeks prior to the semester/term application period).

- \$35.00 non-refundable application fee.
- "Graduate Degree Clearance" form (available at the Grad Studies office and online via the "Forms" link on the grad Studies Web site).

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- A previously approved "Petition of Advancement to Candidacy" on file in the Division of Graduate Studies.
- A minimum program grade point average of 3.0.
- Permission from the graduate coordinator/director to apply for graduation. Deadlines: For the "Graduate Degree Application" form, the first two weeks of the fall and spring semesters, or the first three weeks of the summer semester; consult the Class Schedule or the "Dates & Deadlines" section of the Grad Studies Web site for exact deadlines.
- For the "Graduate Degree Clearance" form, the last day of the semester or final summer term. Procedure:
- Students must file the graduation application and pay an application fee. Your signature as coordinator/director is required.
- Coordinators/directors should schedule a meeting with graduating students to determine how final requirements (e.g., culminating experience, clearance of incomplete coursework, appropriate paperwork) are to be met.
- "Graduate Degree Clearance" forms must be submitted to the Division of Graduate Studies. Your signature as coordinator/director is required.
- Graduation in the summer is optional, based on the availability of the student's faculty.
- The graduate evaluator reviews applicants' files to determine completion of all requirements and clears all degrees. Transcripts showing degree granted are available after this point only. (See "Proof of Degree Granted" below.) Proof of Degree Granted Coordinators/directors may receive requests from students needing verification that their degree has been posted. Proof of degree granted is available as follows:

- Transcripts: Transcripts with the graduate degree posted are available upon clearance of the degree by the evaluator. However, transcripts showing the degree are not automatically sent to the student upon graduation. Transcript requests can only be done in person or by mail. Coordinators/directors should refer students to the Public Contact Window in Joyal Administration Building or the transcripts Web site to print the transcript request form. A fee of \$4.00 for the first copy, \$2.00 for each additional copy through ten.
- Diplomas: The Evaluations Office mails the diploma to the student approximately three months after the degree is posted. Students will receive an email prior to the mailing of their diplomas.
- Certification Letters: Students who have completed all requirements with grades posted in all courses, and need written confirmation of their degrees prior to the official degree granting date (i.e., the final day of the semester) may request a Letter of Certification from the Division of Graduate Studies. A small fee is required.

# Advancement to Candidacy

Advancement to candidacy gives students permission to proceed toward qualifying for the degree and finishing the program. Once students have completed at least 12 hours of graduate work, it is the student's responsibility to message the graduate coordinator and set up an advancement to candidacy meeting. This should happen no later than the semester prior to enrolling in the culminating experience. The graduate coordinator will complete the advancement form with the student and discuss their culminating experience and any additional paperwork required.

In order to advance to candidacy, students must have completed MPA 210 and have a 3.0 GPA.

#### **Advancement to Candidacy:**

Advancement to Candidacy is a procedure that provides the student with a program of study that has been officially reviewed and approved by both the student's program faculty and The graduate dean. Students who have been advanced to candidacy have official permission to proceed toward qualifying for the degree.

**Eligibility Criteria:** The student must have accomplished the following:

- · Achieved Classified Standing
- · Completed at least nine (9) units at Fresno State toward the proposed program
- · Attained a minimum program grade point average of 3.0 in coursework listed on the advancement petition
- · Fulfilled the graduate writing skills requirement.

**Deadlines:** The sixth week of the semester prior to the term in which a student registers for the culminating experience, and/or applies for the graduate degree to be granted. Consult the Class Schedule or the "Dates & Deadlines" section of the Graduate Studies website for exact deadlines.

#### **Procedure:** The student should:

- Schedule an appointment to meet with his or her graduate adviser and complete of the "Petition of Advancement to Candidacy"
- Obtain the signature of the graduate program adviser and/or coordinator/ director, and if required, that of the department chair, and college/school dean
- Return the advancement petition to the Division of Graduate Studies Office for final approval.

#### Acceptable program of study

- Courses used to fulfill General Education curriculum, undergraduate writing "W" courses, 300-series courses, and lower division courses may not be listed on the advancement petitions.
- A maximum of 6 program units listed on the advancement petition may be independent study units. 6
- A minimum of 75% of a student's program must consist of 200-series courses.
- A maximum of 6 units of CR-graded coursework may apply toward the MPA degree.
- A maximum of 9 transfer units may apply toward the MPA degree

# Courses in the Master of Public Administration Program

**MPA 200**. Administration and Society (3) How administration acts and is acted upon by institutional forces and values; role of history, cultural, ethical, political, social, and economic values and institutions; an emphasis on: bureaucracy, economy and democracy, centralization vs. decentralization, professionalism and society; alternatives to bureaucracy.

**MPA 201**. Quantitative Applications for Public Administration (3) Exploring different methods of data analysis for understanding how public decisions are made and public policies are evaluated. Data collection, measurement, sampling, and data analysis — including regression — are explored with practical applications.

**MPA 210**. Organizational Theory in Public Administration (3) A study of the key issues involved in the management of public organizations. This examination of organizational behavior and theories of complex organizations includes the following: leadership styles, communication, organizational change, hierarchy and organizational structure, and organizational culture.

**MPA 215**. State and Local Government (3) Helps students understand state and local government history and how these governmental units interact with the federal government. Legislatures, executives, courts and city, and county councils are studied, particularly in terms of their emphasis on public policy.

**MPA 230**. Public Budgeting (3) Examines the budget process, the use of economic analysis in evaluating taxation and expenditure issues, and the development and analysis of budget

proposals. Also includes discussion of burdens and effectiveness of different taxes and considers potential reforms to the budgeting process.

**MPA 240.** Seminar in Public Management (3) An inquiry into contemporary issues facing public managers. Topics that can be covered include accountability, performance management, development of information technology, e-government, public management reforms, implications of privatization/contracting out, and public governance.

**MPA 245**. Human Resources Management (3) Explores the development of the merit system in government, hiring and termination, career development, human resource planning, management-labor relations, equal opportunity, affirmative action, workplace diversity, and the legal dimension of the public personnel system.

**MPA 250**. Ethics and Public Administration (3) (Same as AETH 202.) Prerequisite: MPA 210. The moral dimensions of public administrative decision-making. The nature of public and private morality; psychological and ethical egoism; relativism; utilitarianism and deontological theories; rights and goods in the public service context; sensitive applications of rules in public agencies.

**MPA 260**. Public Policy Administration (3) Prerequisites: MPA 200, 201, 210, 240. A study of policy initiation, formulation, and implementation and a public manager's role in them; management processes and functions in the policy process; policy justification and advocacy, policy analysis, and implementation evaluation.

**MPA 280T**. Topics in Public Administration (3; max total 6 if no topic repeated) Selected topics meeting student needs and interests that are not met in other university courses. Examples of recent MPA 280 T classes include Labor and Management Relations, Intergovernmental Relations, Water Politics, and Social Equity and Justice.

**MPA 287**. Internship in Public Administration (3) Supervised work experience for a realistic exposure to an organizational-bureaucratic environment for students in the MPA program who lack significant work experience in a public or nonprofit organization. CR/NC grading only.

**MPA 289T**. Practitioner's Seminar (1-3; max total 6 if no topic repeated) Prerequisite: Some seminars may have course prerequisites. Selected topics in the administration of public programs and agencies examined from the prospective and experience of practitioners.

**MPA 290**. Independent Study (1-4; max total 6) See Academic Placement — Independent Study. Approved for RP grading. (Formerly GPA 290) MPA 299.

**Thesis 299A** (3) Prerequisite: See Criteria for Thesis and Project. Preparation, completion, and submission of an acceptable thesis for the master's degree. Approved for RP grading.

**Capstone 298** (3): Prerequisite: See Criteria Above. Completion of the Capstone Class and Capstone Project

## Contacts and Additional Resources

Contact Information for Dr. Bick: naomibick@mail.fresnostate.edu

McKee Fisk 209; Regular Office Hours every week in person or Zoom by appointment.

#### International County/City Management Association (ICMA) Student Organization

Student organization dedicated to professional development, networking, and community building among Fresno State MPA students, as well as chapters throughout the country.

Joining our local chapter comes with a free membership to the national organization where there are scholarships, conferences, and professional development and training opportunities.

Reach out to Dr. Bick for more details and sign-up information.

# Other Helpful University Resources:

#### **MPA Program site**

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

#### **Research/Library Assistance**

Please reach out to our librarian, <u>Email Chris Langer</u>, or take advantage of any of the Ask a Librarian services offered both online and in person.

#### **Graduate Students Division**

For information on research grants, writing assistance, writing advice, scholarships, or other resources.

Visit: Division of Graduate Studies

**Email:** Graduate Students Division

#### **University Calendar**

https://studentaffairs.fresnostate.edu/registrar/deadlines/semestercalendars.html

#### **Canvas Tutorial**

Canvas Overview (Students)

# **Funding Opportunities**

We recommend that students apply for any fellowships, grants, and awards for which they may be qualified. Here are two:

## **Graduate Student Research & Creative Activities Support Awards**

- Competitive research merit award
- Major consideration: the scholarship of a student's proposed thesis/master's project
- Eligibility: all students with a GPA of 3.0 or better who have been advanced to candidacy and have secured their thesis/project committee
- Available every spring semester through the Division of Graduate Studies

#### **Travel grants**

- Available throughout the year
- Students must have been invited to present a paper or poster at a major professional association conference or society meeting
- All materials must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the conference/meeting

Please visit Funding for Graduate Students for more information