

Student Activity Fees: FAQs

As a Graduate student, it's important to understand what the fee entails and how it will impact you. The initial message can be viewed [here](#). Below, GSG has worked to answer all of your questions and address your feedback about the fee.

What Is The Student Activity Fee?

The student activity fee is a proposed fee paid by all full-time, on-campus graduate students registered at the University. It is used to fund professional development, student groups, events and activities, and more.

For full-time, on-campus graduate students, this fee is proposed at \$4 per quarter for a total of \$12 per academic year. No fee is applied during the summer.

Who Is Impacted By The Fee?

Full-Time, On-Campus Students

All full-time, on-campus graduate students registered at the university are required to pay the fee each quarter. This number includes around 3,000 students but fluctuates quarterly.

What if I am studying abroad or off-campus working on a dissertation?

This fee should not be reflected on your tuition statement. Some colleges will continue to charge their student activity fee regardless.

What About DU's Commitment To Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion?

GSG acknowledges that we pay a large amount in tuition already and took this into consideration when determining the amount of the student activity fee. This increase is related to the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

For example, when subsidizing costs for the Denver Nuggets game, GSG was able to purchase a small number of tickets. Those tickets were distributed back to graduate students on Crimson Connect for \$5 each. All tickets were spoken for within the week of announcing the ticket discount. The student activity fee will help GSG cover the full costs of engagement opportunities throughout the academic year for as many graduates as possible.

How Will This Fee Enhance My Campus Experience?

Graduate Student Organizations

- Opportunities for university-wide networking and involvement.

- More autonomy to create based on graduate specific needs.
- Continuing to maintain mentorship opportunities with undergraduate organizations.

Professional Development

- Programs such as research retreats and support, speakers, headshots, and CV or resume development.
- Interdisciplinary networking and connections.

On-Campus and Virtual Accommodations

- Enhancements to the Community Commons Graduate Lounge such as ping pong tables or coffee makers.
- Linking graduates with the campus platform Crimson Connect to connect and organize with others, share events, and stay up to date with ways to be involved.

Community Engagement

- Events and programming both on and off campus, such as the Spring Carnival with free food and games.
- Discounts to support exploring and discovering Denver, such as Denver Nuggets Tickets.

Didn't We Vote On This Fee Last Year?

Student Activity Fees for graduate students have been in the works for 3 terms of GSG members. When the student body was invited to vote last spring, the voter response rate did not satisfy the requirements in the bylaws at the time to move forward. The timeline of the Student Activity Fees Resolution is below.

Fall 2020: Resolution #1 Proposed

Spring 2021: Passed Resolution #2 with majority Senate vote

Fall 2021: Passed increase to \$4 with majority Senate vote

Spring 2022: Graduate body vote did not reach 5% response rate

Spring 2023: Collecting student feedback to inform GSG Senate vote during week 8

Shouldn't The University Be Providing These Funds? Why Is GSG Asking Students For More Money?

It is fairly standard for Graduate students to pay a student activity fee while in school for extra-curricular programming. In fact, you may not be aware that you already pay a \$10/quarter student activity fee. However, this fee goes entirely back to your school to

fund community and professional development within each respective college. GSG does not receive any of that funding.

Currently, the University generously carves out \$6,000 per academic year to GSG directly from the Office of Student Engagement's allocation. This is not something the University does for Undergraduates, who pay approximately \$145/quarter in order to fund their activities, professional development, and access to Crimson Connect.

GSG is hoping to take the proposed \$12/year to provide funding for cross-campus student affinity groups, to offer financial support for students engaged in things like professional development projects, to sustain the Crimson Connect platform, and to take community engagement to the next level for all Graduate students. This money would go 100% directly back to Graduate students to make their experience better.

How Are They Distributed Across The University? What System Is In Place To Determine Eligibility For Receive Funds?

This academic year, GSG has been piloting a Funding Request [form](#) on Crimson Connect to help graduate students organize their own events, activities, and groups. As requests have been submitted, GSG has continuously been reviewing to streamline and maintain consistency throughout the process for all parties. Each Funding Request is assessed and voted on by GSG Senators, and spending is monitored through GSG's existing budget account. We hope that this process begins to simplify how graduate students can utilize and access their student activity fee.

How Will Allocations Of Funds Be Communicated To The Larger Graduate Student Body?

Will These Funds Be Restricted To Be Used Solely for On-Campus, Full-Time Students?

Because of the unique nature of the graduate student experience, it would be difficult to limit all programs offered through the student activity fee to only the on-campus, full-time student population. We often welcome guests of graduate students to participate to accommodate families and friends at events, while other times there are requirements for Crimson Connect registration or showing your student ID. Primarily, it is expected that students who are attending classes in Denver at a full-time status will be the most impacted by the fee due to the nature of many of the opportunities.

When Would The Fee Take Effect?

Pending GSG Senate's vote on the fee resolution during week 8 of spring quarter 2023, student activity fees for Graduates can begin in the fall for the 2023-24 academic year.

I Still Have Questions And Feedback.

Anonymous feedback should be submitted to this Crimson Connect [survey](#). Any questions directed to gsg@du.edu will not be anonymous but are also welcome.