

IOWA

GPAC Funding Workshop

How to Maximize Your Student Org's Funding Success

March 11, 2026

Agenda

- GPAC Overview and Operations
 - Funding Tenets
- Funding for Student Orgs
 - Regular Funding
 - Deadlines
 - Rapid Funding
- Post-Funding Requirements
- Utilization of Funding
- Recommendations/Tips
- FAQ
- Questions

What is GPAC?

- Graduate and Professional Allocations Committee
 - Only committee under GPSG that is not open to all graduate/professional students
 - 9 voting reps, 7 member governments, typically the Treasurer of each
 - College of Medicine
 - College of Law
 - College of Nursing
 - College of Public Health
 - College of Dentistry and Dental Clinics
 - College of Pharmacy
 - Graduate College (3 reps, self-appointed)
 - GPAC Director, elected by delegates on GPSG, non-voting member
- Collectively reviews funding requests from graduate/professional student organizations and makes funding recommendations to GPSG
 - GPAC does **NOT** make official funding decisions (rapid funding is the exception)

How does GPAC Allocate Funding?

- Funding set by the GPSG Finance Director each year in late summer
 - From Student Activities Fee (\$41/semester per student for **FY2026**)
 - Anywhere between \$90k-\$120k, split into 3 funding cycles and rapid funding by the GPAC Director
 - Goal is to have funding throughout the year for student orgs
 - Funding may run low after March/April for some years
- Dictated by the GPAC Funding Tenets
 - Annually revised by GPAC and approved by GPSG
 - <https://gpsg.uiowa.edu/organization-allocations>
 - Serve as a guideline for how GPAC will allocate funding for student org funding requests
 - GPAC reserves the right to reduce or deny funding for any reason, provided the same treatment is applied to each similar request

Applying for GPAC Funding

- Regular Funding Cycle
 - 3 cycles with request deadlines
 - About 1/3 of the GPAC budget may be allocated per cycle (\$30k-\$35k)
- Rapid Funding Process
 - Maximum of \$500 can be requested for a single event/trip/expenditure
 - May request at anytime throughout the year (provided funding is available)
- All funding requests are made on Engage
 - Will need to be listed as either the Treasurer or President of your student org on Engage to have access to this functionality
 - Hard deadline of June 30 to use funding (same each year)
 - For each event/trip/expenditure, submit a funding request (not multiple events in a single request)

Post-Funding Requirements

- ASAP
 - Submit event form on Engage (recommended 4+ weeks in advance)
 - Office of Leadership, Service, and Civic Engagement oversees approval
 - It will not be approved if you submit it the day before your event/trip
 - Event must be approved to use funding (p-cards, Amazon orders, travel reimbursement, individual reimbursement)
- Advertising and Marketing
 - Receiving GPAC funding means your student org agrees to include the GPSG logo on all marketing and advertisements (on the website)
 - Flyers
 - Posters

Utilization of Funding

- Student Organization Business Office (SOBO, sobo@uiowa.edu)
 - Handles all processing of GPAC approved funding using forms, email all forms to SOBO
 - Procurement cards (P-cards) can be checked out from SOBO
 - Serve as University credit cards
 - Can be checked out overnight for 1 business day
 - For tax-exempt purchases
 - Individual reimbursement
 - Use personal credit cards
 - All purchases taxed, amount must be included in GPAC approved funding
 - Amazon orders must be placed with SOBO and shipped to a University address
 - Travel will be reimbursed after the trip has concluded
- To change existing funding purposes:
 - Complete a GPAC Funding Amendment Form and email to the GPAC Director (not SOBO)
 - Can be used for amending funding from an existing event to a new event or to an existing future event

Recommendations/Tips for Obtaining Funding

- Utilize the Regular Funding Cycles as **MUCH** as possible and submit early in the cycle
 - Can request more than just \$500 for an event/trip/expenditure
 - Funding preference is given to regular funding cycles vs rapid funding
 - Submit early to allow for revisions to be made if the GPAC Director sends it back with comments
- Read the GPAC Funding Tenets **THOROUGHLY** before submitting a funding request
 - Often denied requests:
 - Food for regular student org meetings or events closed to the graduate/professional student community
 - Merchandise
 - Purchasing items for donation (University policy does not allow this)
 - Requesting funding over the maximum allowed per fiscal year
- Request funding as early as possible so funding is available
 - Regular Funding Cycles
 - In the spring semester after Regular Funding Cycle 3, request rapid funding asap
- If you have a question about whether something can be funded, email the GPAC Director ahead of time and ask!

Frequently Asked Questions

- Will regular funding requests submitted after the deadline be accepted?
 - No. GPAC operates regular funding cycles on a tight schedule and cannot accept late submissions.
- Can I submit a regular funding request for an event/trip much later in the year outside the regular funding cycle funding recommendation time period?
 - GPAC will only consider funding requests for events/trips within the regular funding cycle recommendation time period. If your student org has an extenuating circumstance, email the GPAC Director and explain your situation well in advance.
- How soon will I receive a decision for a rapid funding request?
 - GPAC will try to have a decision within 5 business days while classes are in session.
- If I receive partial funding for a funding request, can I submit a rapid funding request later to receive supplemental funding to make up what was cut from my original request?
 - No. GPAC only funds each event/trip one time to prevent student orgs from submitting repeat requests for the same event/trip.
- Can my USG-registered student org receive funding from GPAC?
 - Yes. GPAC will consider funding requests for USG-registered student orgs on a case-by-case basis. Typically, the events with a reasonable reach to graduate/professional students will receive funding for estimated graduate/professional student attendance. GPAC-registered student orgs typically will not receive funding for undergraduate student attendance.
- Can my student org have a one-time exception to the GPAC Funding Tenets?
 - No. To ensure all student orgs are being treated the same, no student org will be exempt from any part of the GPAC Funding Tenets. If GPAC decides to change part of the GPAC Funding Tenets in the middle of the year, all graduate and professional student orgs will be notified of this change and will have equal opportunity to benefit from the changes.

Questions?

- GPAC Updates are now on the GPAC website to provide important dates to remember

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Thank you

Nathan Chen

GPAC Director
Graduate and Professional Student
Government

gpsg-gpac@uiowa.edu

→ <https://gpsg.uiowa.edu/organization-allocations>

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