

Graduate Council Funding:

Helping graduate students enhance their academic and professional experiences



Who is the Simmons Graduate Council?

- Represents graduate students across every department at Simmons since 2011.
- 10 student representatives — at least one from every graduate program
- Administers funding for student enrichment and professional development
- Meets monthly to plan professional development, review applications, and plan social events

Questions? Email your program's representative or
SimmonsGraduateCouncil@smu.edu



Graduate Council Funding Supports...

Conference Participation

- Conference registration
- Conference travel
- Hotel accommodations
- Presenting research
- Professional conference attendance

Example: Presenting a poster at a national conference

Research Support*

- Non-course related books
- Printing research posters
- Research supplies & software
- Project materials
- Other approved research-related expenses

**As permitted by Graduate Council guidelines*

Memberships & More*

- Professional and Student annual memberships to:
 - AERA, ASHE, ACPA, NASPA, and many more.
- Scholarly experiences and professional development

**Most opportunities that enrich your graduate education are eligible!*

Eligible Travel Expenses

- Economy airfare
- Standard hotel room
- Conference registration
- Mileage (TX, OK, AR, LA, & NM)
- Airport parking
- Airport Uber/Taxi/Shuttle (up to \$100)
- Hotel & flight taxes (when applicable)



Travel Expenses Not Eligible for Reimbursement

- Alcohol
- Food
- Business or First-Class airfare
- Rental cars
- Daily Uber between hotel and conference
- Personal transportation
- Sales tax (*except eligible hotel and airfare taxes*)



How Reimbursement Works



Apply for funding*

Up to \$1,750 per academic year

**One application per funding cycle*

Attend your event, buy your books/materials, and/or pay your membership dues

Submit itemized receipts

Submit receipts within 90 days of purchase

Receive reimbursement

Funding is provided after your activity—not before.

2026-2027 Application Deadlines

- Fall application cycle: September 14th – 25th
- Spring application cycle: February 8th – 19th
- Summer application cycle: April 5th – 16th



What Happens After the Application Window Closes

1. Make sure you submit your request during an open application cycle
2. Applications are reviewed at the Council's next scheduled meeting following the close of the cycle
3. You'll hear back by email within 7 business days of the Council's decision

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Questions?

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