What is GTOP?

The Graduate Tuition Opportunity Program (GTOP) provides support to former EOP, HEOP, and SEEK program graduates. The University at Albany is a staunch supporter of GTOP and committed to expand educational opportunities to underserved constituencies.

Supported by special appropriation from the SUNY Central Administration, plus University at Albany resources, acceptance into this program is determined by the University. The award also depends, in part, on the level of GTOP funding in a given year.

Who is Eligible?

- In order to be eligible, applicants must be EOP, HEOP, or SEEK program graduates from a New York State public and private institution of higher education.
- Applicants must be a New York State resident.
- A Certification of Participation Eligibility form must be completed and signed by the undergraduate institution’s EOP, HEOP, or SEEK director to verify the applicant’s prior program participation. This form is held on file and only needs to be completed once.
- A completed GTOP Certification of Participation Eligibility form must be on file with the Office of Graduate Education before the GTOP application can be considered.
- The GTOP Application form must be submitted for each academic year for eligibility.
- Consistent with University guidelines, GTOP recipients are restricted to maximum of two years of support while pursuing the Master’s degree. Students continuing in doctoral study will be funded for an additional two years of support beyond the Master’s. Doctoral students who enter the university with a Master’s or Advanced standing are limited to three years of support.
- Applicants must be enrolled full-time in a graduate degree program. During the academic year, the GTOP award covers 9 graduate credits of tuition per semester. For the summer session, the GTOP award can only support students admitted into an advanced standing graduate program that requires summer coursework. Additionally, students requiring no more than 6 graduate credits of summer coursework to complete degree requirements in the summer session will be considered for GTOP.
- Applicants are responsible for paying university fees.

Acceptance into GTOP is determined at the campus to which the student has applied. Tuition aid will be awarded based on the number of scholarships allocated to that campus.

What are the restrictions to GTOP?

- GTOP is not an entitlement program. Being eligible for the program does not automatically ensure participation for each applicant.
- The University at Albany has determined the best use of the limited GTOP funds. The funds will support eligible students who have recently finished their undergraduate degrees. These students have not entered the workforce for any length of time to finance their graduate education. Hence, they represent the historical intent and purpose of GTOP.
- GTOP lacks the resources to fund a second master’s degree, non-degree study, or a graduate certificate program of less than 30 credit hours.
- To be eligible and continue to receive GTOP support in future semesters, a recipient must maintain good academic standing and demonstrate satisfactory academic progress toward completion of his/her graduate degree.
What is the application procedure?

Students must first complete a “Certification of Participation” form before applying for GTOP. This form verifies the student is a program graduate of EOP, HEOP, or SEEK. Verification of the student’s participation requires the signature of the director of the student’s undergraduate EOP, HEOP, or SEEK program. This form must be returned to the Office of Graduate Education by April 15th for the next academic year for which funding is requested.

In addition, students must complete the yearly GTOP Application Form and check each semester tuition support is requested.

To receive support in the next academic year, the GTOP Application Form must be received by April 15th. Late applications will be placed on a wait-list and funded only if funds become available.

Application deadlines for New Students:
- Fall Semester is due in the Office of Graduate Education by April 15th of that year.
- Spring Semester is due in the Office of Graduate Education by the preceding December 1st.

How can I obtain more information?

The GTOP application and certification form is available on the website listed below. General inquiries may also be addressed to:

Office of Graduate Education
University at Albany
State University of New York
University Administration Building, Room 121
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
http://www.albany.edu/graduate/graduate-tuition-opportunity-program.php
(518) 442-3980
Fax (518)442-3922

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