

Sociology Graduate Student Travel Committee

Funding Caps (updated Nov 2015)

Below are the general guidelines by which the Sociology Graduate Student Travel Committee appropriates travel funding for students:

Priority	Conference Type	Funding Caps
I	Competitive National and International Conferences	International: Up to \$1000 Domestic: Up to \$850
II	Competitive Specialty Conferences	Up to \$750
III	Competitive Workshops	Up to \$500
IV	Non-Competitive Conferences/Workshops	Up to \$300
V	Small Block Grants	Up to \$200

Note: If the paper to be presented at the conference/workshop is a revised version of a paper previously presented at a conference/workshop for which the applicant received funds from the Travel Committee, funding caps are one half the amount specified above.

How funding is calculated

The Travel Committee estimates the cost of conference attendance. The amount of any other travel funding is then subtracted from the estimated cost; applicants are eligible for funding at the level of 75% of the remaining cost, up to the funding caps specified above.

Things to Keep in Mind:

- **Funding caps are considered *maximum* amounts and may change depending on budgetary constraints.**
- In years where we are experiencing budgetary constraints, it may not be possible to fund students to travel to multiple conferences within the same fiscal year. If this situation should occur, the travel committee will give preference to students who are presenting research that has not been previously presented at another conference. Under these circumstances, all are encouraged to apply for funding, though travel applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- **Job Market Candidates** are students who are actively on the job market, seeking employment. All Job Market Candidates are eligible to receive funding support to attend one conference during their PSU graduate studies career when they are on the job market, at which they are not a presenter. This is designed to provide these students with the opportunity to network with other professionals in order to secure a job.

Definitions:

- Competitive national and international conferences are defined as *conferences geared specifically towards Sociology and Demography that include a competitive application process*; examples include ASA, PAA, IUSSP, and ISA.
- Competitive specialty conferences are defined as *conferences that are focused on a specific specialty area within Sociology and/or Demography that include a competitive application process*. Some examples of specialty conferences include (but are not limited to) the American Association for Public Opinion Research; American Association of Social and Political Scientists; Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture; American Educational Research Association; Association for Public Policy and Management; American Society of Criminology; East-West Center's International Graduate Student Conference; Gerontological Society of America; National Conference on Family Relations; RAND Summer Institute; RC28 International Conference Annual Mtg; Society for the Scientific Study of Religion; Urban Affairs Association; and Unite for Sight--Mapping Global Inequality.
- Competitive workshops are defined as *any workshop focused on either discipline-specific (i.e., Sociology or Demography) or specialty areas within these disciplines that **includes** a competitive application process*. Workshops differ from conferences in that they provide primarily a training opportunity for students, as opposed to conferences which provide a forum to present research and receive feedback. Some examples include select ICPSR summer workshops (through the University of Michigan) and NLSY data workshops (through Ohio State).
- Non-competitive workshops/conferences are *defined as any workshop or conference focused on either discipline-specific (i.e., Sociology or Demography) or specialty areas within these disciplines that **do not include** a competitive application process*. Some examples include Eastern Sociological Society meetings and the Families and Health conference.
- Small block grants are offered for students who are not on the program of a national, international, or specialty conference, but are interested in attending for further training and/or networking opportunities. These are distributed on a competitive basis each year (see the Small Block Grant available on the student travel webpage for more information).