PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT
INFORMATION STATEMENT/REVIEW FORM
2015/2016

Duke University Graduate School Office of Financial Aid may take into account a student's special circumstances to make adjustments to his or her expected family contribution for educational expenses, standard cost of attendance (COA) budget, and/or financial aid dependency status, as determined by federal guidelines. Adjustments submitted for consideration must be documented and reasonable as it pertains to the cost of attendance and are on a case by case basis.

Indicated below are the guidelines for professional judgments for Duke University Graduate School. Students requesting consideration for any of these categories of adjustment should complete and sign the attached Request for Professional Judgment Form, and submit the required documentation to the Duke University Graduate School Office of Financial Aid. Please note that other institutional or external support must also be reported in this application in order to determine federal aid eligibility. Students should allow 10 days to receive an email with our office's decision on the professional judgment request.

Please note that all request for the 2015/2016 financial aid year, must be received by our office by June 1, 2016 if you are requesting financial aid for the summer term.

The Graduate School Office of Financial Aid, in accordance with federal regulations, establishes a standard student budget for all aid recipients based on expected tuition and other campus fees, average housing costs, average book and supply expenses, and average transportation costs for commuting students within the tri-county area (Durham, Wake, and Orange) However, adjustments may be made for the following documented circumstances:

A. Child Care for Dependent Children costs that may be considered include child or day care expenses for children younger than school-aged or requiring special needs as documented by a medical provider. Increases are not permitted for the costs of food and shelter for dependents. The maximum allowance is $5,000 of child care expenses paid in a year for one qualifying individual. Students must provide an expense statement for the child care provided. All statements must include the name of each child and the amount of payment, per week, for each child. Adjustments to the budget will NOT be made for child care provided by an immediate family member (which includes unemployed spouses or partners). Also, if a student is applying or receiving the Child Care Subsidy with the Graduate School, they are not eligible for this adjustment. In-home care by a nanny or service is not eligible.

B. Travel expenses may be considered for approved study abroad programs and travel related to academic studies. Allowances may be made based on documented expenses or mileage. Expenses may include airfare, lodging, meal and other transportation (upon arrival to destination). Foreign travel adjustments will include determination of current State Department per diem rates or actual expenses, whichever is less. Travel adjustments will not be considered for student family or dependents (only the individual student's expenses may be considered). Our office has the right to request boarding passes if the adjustment is approved. If travel did not occur, or student is not able to produce boarding passes, the travel adjustment to the students COA will be removed, and the student’s
federal funds will be returned in the amount of the requested travel and thus the student is responsible to reimburse their bursar account in this amount.

A summary outlining proposed research, destination, and dates along with a printout of travel expenses (ie. flight information) must be submitted.

C. **Documented special needs or disability expenses** that may be considered include special services, personal assistance, transportation, equipment, and supplies that are reasonably incurred and not provided by other agencies. Proof of specific disability from agency or provider and documentation of expenses, such as receipts or statement of services is required.

D. **Computer purchase** the maximum allowance for purchase of a computer is $3,000 for students in years 1-3 and $3,000 for students beyond their third year. This means that one student may be eligible for an adjustment of up to $6,000 in computer-related expenses for the duration of their academic careers. Eligible expenses may also include printers and maintenance contracts. Purchases of software, printer supplies, online service fees etc. will be assumed to be covered in the existing COA allowance for books and supplies. In order to have the cost of the computer purchase included in the COA, students must submit either documentation of the intended or existing purchase.

E. **Medical and/or dental expenses not covered by insurance** Documentation of significant out-of-pocket medical and/or dental expenses not covered by insurance during the current year and paid by the student may be submitted for consideration. Students must provide an documentation that details:

- Original medical/dental expenses with the patient’s name, date of service(s) and the medical/dental provider contact information
- Amount paid (or to be paid) by insurance and any other amount to be adjusted off the balance due
- Amount actually paid (or to be paid) on this service by the individual
- Estimate from provider for services to be performed within the academic year

F. **Research/Dissertation/Thesis Expenses** must be fair and responsible. A printout of intended purchases must be provided along with an explanation of how this or these items will be used toward your research. Our office may contact your Department Chair or Director of Graduate Studies to insure that the expense(s) are need for your dissertation or thesis.

G. **Special Circumstances** that have not been addressed above that you would like our office to consider:

- Attach a summary of the circumstance(s)
- Attach documentation that pertains to request

**Conditions that do NOT merit COA adjustments include (but are not limited to):**

1. Automobile or household expenses.
2. Consumer indebtedness (auto loans, credit card payments, student loan payments).
3. Financial support of a spouse or dependents.
4. Additional food purchases beyond budget.
5. Utility and telephone bills.
6. Private school enrollment for dependent children or family, afterschool care, summer camps for dependents.
7. Housing expenses (already provided as part of COA budget).
PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT INFORMATION
REVIEW FORM
2015/2016

Student Name: ____________________________________________________________
(Please print)

Student ID Number: _________________________ Date: _________________________

Please note this form does not guarantee that your request will be approved,
or that you will be eligible for additional aid.

Have you completed the 15/16 FAFSA? 
☐ Yes, then you can complete this form.
☐ No, then you must file the FAFSA before we can consider a professional judgment request.

SECTION A
Child Care for Dependent Children

Dependent(s) receiving care (additional dependent information can be attached to form):

Name: ____________________________________ Age:__________ Relation: _____________________
Name: ____________________________________ Age:__________ Relation: _____________________
Name: ____________________________________ Age:__________ Relation: _____________________

Service Provider #1 (Information about additional service providers should be attached)

Provider Name: ______________________________________________________________________
Provider Address: ___________________________________________ _________________________
Weekly Charge of Service: $______________ (Attach copy of billing statement as documentation)
Date(s) of Expense (i.e., time period when service is/will be used): FROM___________ TO ____________
Total Actual or Estimated Dependent Care expenses for the academic year: $____________________

Student must attach billing statement/invoice from this provider.

SECTION B
Travel Expenses

Destination: _______________________________________________________________________
Number of days/week at location specified above: ________________________________

Student must attach a copy of the location and agreement for the course work related location (if applicable).

Travel Abroad: please provide travel documentation (airfare, hotel, rental car – if applicable)

**Food is already included in the COA and cannot be counted twice**
SECTION C
Documented Special Needs or Disability Expenses

Name of person receiving care: ________________________________  Relation: __________________
If applicable, has insurance been filed and paid: ____________
Description of expense(s): ________________________________________________________________

**Student must attach proof of specific disability from agency or doctor and documentation of expense, such as receipts or a statement of services.**

SECTION D
Computer Purchase

Amount requested: ________________________________ maximum amount $3,000

**Student must attach receipt (if purchased), or printout of the intended purchase.  *We cannot approve adjustment for purchases made by others on your behalf.***

SECTION E
Medical and/or dental expenses (current year only)

Name of person receiving care: ________________________________  Relation: __________________
If applicable, has insurance been filed and paid: ____________

*If no, we cannot process until the carrier has made the final decision on payment.*

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**Student must attach: letter from healthcare provider which document the procedure(s)/treatment(s), documentation that treatment(s) is medically necessary, date of procedure(s)/treatment(s), and estimated or actual cost to student (not covered by insurance). The documentation must clearly delineate payments and dates made by the student from those paid by insurance.**

SECTION F
Research/Dissertation/Thesis Expenses

A printout(s) of intended purchase(s) must be provided along with an explanation of how this/ these items will be used toward your dissertation or thesis.

SECTION G
Special Circumstances

Please attach documentation to support your request.
Please list all current and anticipated (i.e. if there are pending applications and/or decisions in progress) financial support from Duke University and external sponsors for the current year. Please include both fellowship (no service required) and work performed (service required):

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**Certification Statement** – All of the information provided in this form is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I agree to provide additional documentation if requested prior to and after awarding. Failure to comply could result in adjustments to existing or future awards and repayment of financial aid disbursements. I understand that approval of this request does not assure approval of a similar future request and that any financial assistance offered is limited by the availability of funds in any given year. I also understand that approval of this request is contingent upon review of the accuracy of information in previous professional judgment appeals. **THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE CONSIDERATION CAN BE MADE.**

______________________ ____________ (____)_______________ _______________________
Student Signature Date Student Daytime Phone # Student Email

Return this form and appropriate documents to:
Duke University Graduate School Office of Financial Aid, 2127 Campus Drive, Durham, NC 27708
For assistance, please call (919) 681-3247 or e-mail grad-finaid@duke.edu

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**DUKE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID ONLY**

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<th>SECTION</th>
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Total Request

Date Form Received: ______________________ Approved By:

Approved by _____________________________ Amount ______________ Date __________

  *Cynthia Robertson, Assoc. Dean*

 Denied by _____________________________ Date: __________________

  *Cynthia Robertson, Assoc. Dean*

*Explanation of denial:______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________________