Funding the Fifth Year of Study in the Wharton Finance Ph.D. Program

While the Finance Department commits to provide its doctoral students four years of full financial support, the Department agrees to pay only the dissertation, educational technology and health insurance fees of fifth-year doctoral students.

The Finance Department does not promise any direct grants or fellowships to fifth-year students. However, the Finance Department offers merit-based grants to qualified fifth-year students. The total pool of funds available for these grants can vary from year to year based on a number of different variables. The Department will notify the student(s) who qualified for funding by the beginning of the new academic year.

To be eligible for consideration for a fifth-year merit-based grant, a student must successfully present a dissertation proposal prior to May 15th of the student's fourth year in the program. The Ph.D. Coordinator and the Department Chair will determine the allocation of funds among eligible students. While it is possible that funds will be equally divided among qualified students, this outcome is not guaranteed. Decisions will be based solely on considerations of merit; thus some eligible students may not receive grants while others may receive grants of varying dollar amounts. Any compensation for teaching assistance is unrelated to this merit-based grant. Students who receive a merit-based grant may, in addition, receive compensation for teaching assistance.

For students beyond their fifth year in the doctoral program, the Finance Department agrees to pay the dissertation, educational technology, and health insurance fees. However, the Department will pay these fees only for students who are in residence full time.

No merit-based fellowships are available to students beyond their fifth year. Students beyond their fifth year may seek teaching assistantships as a source of income.