

**From:** Dean of Graduate Education Susan L. Ettner  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 11:01 AM  
**Subject:** Doctoral Student Completer Bonus Pilot Program



**To: Deans, Department Chairs, Graduate Vice-Chairs, MSOs and SAOs**

### **What you need to know:**

- The Division of Graduate Education will award state-supported doctoral programs \$6000 in block grant funding for each doctoral student who completes their degree within normative time-to-degree (TTD) between Fall 2023 and Summer 2024.
- Normative TTD will be determined by published program requirements.
- Funds will be awarded to programs in Fall 2024 as a one-time Block supplement.

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing winter break. As was preliminarily announced during the Fall 2023 Division of Graduate Education (DGE) Chairs meeting, the DGE will be piloting a one-year completer bonus program for state-supported doctoral programs. For each completion (doctoral degree awarded) in Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024 that falls within normative time-to-degree (TTD), the program

will receive \$6000 in a one-time block grant supplement. These supplements will be subject to the same policies and procedures for use as the regular block allocation. Final completer bonus award amounts will be awarded/communicated to departments in Fall 2024, after summer degrees have been finalized.

As you are aware, normative TTD is set by departments with approval from the Graduate Council, then published on the department's [program requirements](#) page on the DGE website. For purposes of the degree completer bonus program, we will use enrolled TTD rather than elapsed TTD (which counts leaves of absence against the student's TTD) to account for possible lingering effects of COVID delays.

Should you have additional questions, please submit your inquiry on the [Graduate Education Portal](#) or via email to [AskGrad@grad.ucla.edu](mailto:AskGrad@grad.ucla.edu).

Best regards,

**Susan L. Ettner**  
Dean of Graduate Education

The UCLA logo is displayed in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a solid blue rectangular background.