



Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly Legislative Platform

Last ratified: April 7, 2021

In this document, "GSA" refers to the Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly.

Students' Rights

Basic Needs and Transportation

GSA strongly supports:

1. City sponsored infrastructure and regulations that improve safety conditions for bikers in the city of Pittsburgh.
2. Improved and alternative methods of recourse for students against maltreatment by landlords.
3. Measures that upzone and densify the City of Pittsburgh, including abolishing exclusionary single family zoning and increasing affordability.
4. Measures that eliminate discriminatory housing practices in the City of Pittsburgh, including maximum occupancy restrictions that allow only 3 unrelated people to occupy a single family house regardless of its size or number of bedrooms.
5. Measures that will improve water and air quality and mitigate the effects of climate change in Pittsburgh.
6. Measures that will increase funding for public transit across Pennsylvania.
7. Upholding the principles and provisions of the Comprehensive Transportation Funding Plan or Act 89 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
8. Legislation that will help to eliminate the problem of food insecurity on college campuses while positively impacting graduate students.
9. Access to affordable and comprehensive health care for all graduate students and their dependents, including international students.
10. Measures that ease access to healthcare, and in particular, mental health care.
11. Measures that track and improve mentorship practices and workplace environment while strongly discouraging abusive advising practices.
12. Measures that ease REAL ID access in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
13. Measures that improve equitable public safety on campus and in surrounding communities.

Civil Rights

GSA strongly supports:

14. Measures upholding the Fourth Amendment rights of immigrants within the city of Pittsburgh, i.e. to become a "Sanctuary" city.
15. The right of graduate student employees to unionize.
16. Measures that will ease access to voting for students.



17. Measures that help the survivors of sexual misconduct. Examples of these can be seen in the next three items of this platform.
18. Measures that will lead to periodic publishing of anonymized, aggregate and non-identifying data regarding reports of sexual harassment and gender-based violence incidents occurring on university campuses, including the ones that were resolved informally.
19. Measures that will improve systems to report and prevent incidents of sexual misconduct across university campuses.
20. A fair hearing process for survivors of sexual misconduct that does not contribute to their trauma.
21. Extending the federal privacy protections for student treatment records at post-secondary institutions. Student treatment records should not be disclosed to any party not directly involved in the treatment of the student without the student's consent, regardless of whether any previous disclosure has occurred.
22. Measures promoting active recruitment, retention, and timely degree completion of underrepresented students at institutions of higher education.
23. Measures that prohibit discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation, such as the Equality Act.

GSA strongly opposes:

24. Any measure that would withhold federal or state funding from Fourth Amendment or "Sanctuary" cities.

International Student Issues

GSA strongly supports:

25. Measures that will facilitate domestic revalidation of F-type visas.
26. Streamlining the F-type visa revalidation process by mandating deadlines within which the process is completed.
27. Measures that will provide equal opportunities to students to apply for different fellowship programs, irrespective of their country of origin.
28. Programs that will provide support and guidance for undocumented students and their families eligible under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program who face displacement locally and nationally.
29. Any legislative or executive efforts that would allow international students to have dual intent, such as reinstating the Rice Cable ([Ref](#)).
30. Expanding the extension for STEM students of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program to non-STEM students.
31. Green Card cap exemptions for students with advanced degrees ([Ref](#))

GSA strongly opposes:



32. Blanket bans on international student entry based on their country of origin, religion, and/or field of study.
33. Any policies that restrict the Optional Practical Training (OPT) Program.
34. Any actions that would result in the deportation or detention of students, including undocumented students, or would limit the future admission of undocumented students.

Higher Education Funding

GSA strongly supports:

35. The reinstatement of subsidized Stafford loans for graduate students.
36. Reunification of undergraduate and graduate student loan interest rates by the U.S. Department of Education.

GSA strongly opposes:

37. Any measure that would result in increased loan costs to graduate students or that cuts funding from the Federal student loan programs.

Promoting Science

GSA strongly supports:

38. Legislation that encourages the adoption and continued funding for open educational resources.
39. Measures that will encourage the publication, maintenance, and accessibility of data sets from federal, state, and local governments including but not limited to the U.S. Census. Further, GSA also supports increased government funding to achieve the aforementioned objectives.
40. Federal measures that incentivize Open Access publishing of research.

GSA strongly opposes:

41. Cuts to federal funding for research. Furthermore, GSA supports the funding of graduate study for all fields, not just STEM fields.
42. Measures that hinder science from being informative for policymaking regarding public health.