



High Impact Experience Grants

High-impact experiences encompass educational, curricular, and co-curricular activities that fully engage students, fostering substantial personal and academic growth. These experiences often include real-world problem solving, hands-on learning, collaboration, and reflective practice.

The Impact Center strives to provide every Muskingum student with at least one high-impact opportunity during their college journey. Thanks to the generosity of Muskingum alumni and friends, the High Impact Experience Grant was established to help offset the costs associated with these valuable experiences, such as travel, accommodations, program fees, living expenses, and necessary materials and supplies.

Eligibility

Students may pursue grant funding for experiences which fall among the following categories:

- Civic Engagement
- Entrepreneurship
- Faculty-Student Research
- Work Related Experience (Internships)
- Study Away
- Leadership

Students must have a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA and be in good social standing as defined by the university Student Code of Conduct. Students must have completed at least one full-time semester and must be enrolled for the semester funding is requested. Students may receive funding for experiences occurring during summer term, May through August (even if not enrolled) assuming fall enrollment. Students graduating in May may receive funding for summer term but not for experiences starting in September. Funding for High Impact Experience grants may not be awarded retroactively. Federal law requires that any funding from this program be included as a financial aid resource for students who receive need-based financial aid. Students may receive up to three High Impact Experience Grants while enrolled as a student at Muskingum. Total program funding is capped at a maximum of \$2,500 per student.

High Impact Experience Grants are available on a student-by-student basis. Applications for group experiences will not be considered.

Application Process

Students are strongly encouraged to start the application process *at least* 2 weeks prior to the application deadline.

To start the application process:

1. Complete the pre-application worksheet.
2. Login to Handshake
3. Click on *Muskingum University Career Center*
4. Click on the *Experiences* tab
5. Click on *Submit an Experience* and choose the *High Impact Experience Grant* template
6. Select the term for which you will want to receive the grant.

7. Carefully and thoughtfully complete all sections of the application and submit.
8. You will receive an email notification that your application was received and is pending review.
9. Your application will be reviewed by the High Impact Experience Committee. You will be notified by Muskingum email if your application is approved or denied.

Funding

Funding amounts will vary based on the costs involved, and other financial resources available to the student. The following will be considered in the determination of funding:

- Amount needed to support the experience
- Ability of the student to articulate the value of the proposed experience for personal and professional growth
- Financial Need

Each student may apply for up to three High Impact Experience grants throughout their time at Muskingum. Total program funding is capped at a maximum of \$2,500 per student.

Funding Timeline

The time from deadline to committee decision will be no longer than 5 weeks after the application deadline. The time from notification to funding disbursement is estimated to be 2~3 weeks.

Deadline December

Funding for February, March, April Experiences
Disbursement starts early February

Deadline March

Funding for May, Summer, September Experiences
Disbursement starts mid-April

Deadline August

Funding for October, November, December, January Experiences
Disbursement starts late September

Students should expect up to 7~8 weeks after the application deadline to receive grant funding.

Before funding is disbursed, students must:

1. Receive approval notification from the High Impact Experience Committee
2. Attend a High Impact Experience appointment* (at the Impact Center), which includes:
 - a. Completion of a career readiness experience module
 - b. Meet in-person with an Impact Center representative to review stipend procedures
 - c. Write a thank you letter to the alumni donor and provide a picture for donor reports
3. Sign an *Agreement to Participate* with the Impact Center outlining roles, responsibilities, and expectations.
4. Agree to complete a post-experience survey.

Funding Disbursement

After the High Impact Experience appointment, disbursement occurs:

- By direct deposit- within 3 to 7 business days after appointment
- By check- on the Friday that follows the first Monday after the appointment

Consequences of Incomplete High Impact Experiences Participation

Receiving a High Impact Experiences Grant and failing to complete the associated high impact experience can lead to significant consequences for students. Primarily, students will become ineligible for future funding within the grant program, limiting their opportunities for further academic and professional growth. Additionally, this situation may have social implications, as students risk damaging their relationships with peers and faculty who supported their endeavors. Employers may also view incomplete experiences as a lack of commitment or reliability, potentially impacting job prospects and references. Academically, students may face setbacks in their learning trajectory, as high impact experiences are designed to enhance knowledge and skills relevant to their fields. However, it's important to note that in cases of unusual circumstances, each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, allowing for potential consideration of extenuating factors.

High Impact Experience Committee

The High Impact Experience Committee consists of Muskingum faculty members from a variety of academic disciplines. Committee members will review all applications submitted by the application due date. Funding will be disbursed to the highest-ranked eligible candidates and may not be available to all applicants. Financial aid status may be considered in decisions, and may affect the grant amount awarded, but is not a factor in grant eligibility.

The Committee will evaluate applications and use a scoring rubric based on the following criteria:

- Potential Positive Impact
- Personal and Professional Benefits
- Impact of Funding on Experience Participation
- Justification of Funding Need
- Financial Need

Review Team Process

The High Impact Experience Committee will meet at designated times during the semester to review applications, with application materials provided to committee members in advance. To ensure a fair evaluation process, the committee will not have access to personal details such as the applicant's name, race, or gender, minimizing potential biases and allowing applicants to be assessed solely on their skills, experiences, qualifications, and other relevant factors.

Applicants will be able to monitor the application process in Handshake. Students will be notified via email regarding approval (which will include the stipend amount awarded) or denial.
