

Graduate and Professional Student Government Spring 26 Elections

Interested Candidate Info Sheet

What is Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG)?

Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) is the official student government representing all graduate and professional students at the University of Pittsburgh. GPSG serves as a unified voice for graduate and professional students by:

- Advocating for student needs and priorities.
- Representing students on university-wide committees.
- Funding graduate student organizations and initiatives.
- Hosting community-building events and programs.
- Connecting students with Pitt administrators and decision-makers.

GPSG is split into two bodies: the Assembly Board, which is composed of student leaders, primarily from individual graduate school's student governments, and the Executive Board, which is composed of five student officers. They meet monthly to report on their activities and discuss priorities.

What positions are available in the Executive Board? What do they do?

GPSG's Executive Board consists of five elected officers:

President

- Serves as the chief representative for graduate and professional students.
- Presides over GPSG Assembly Board and Executive Board meetings.
- Communicates student priorities to University administration.
- Represents GPSG on key university committees.

Vice President of Committees

- Oversees graduate student representation on university-wide committees.
- Recruits and places student representatives on committees.
- Ensures committee information flows back to GPSG leadership.

Vice President of Communications

- Manages GPSG communications, branding, website, emails, and social media.
- Promotes events, services, and announcements.
- Leads outreach and engagement efforts.

Vice President of Finance

- Oversees GPSG finances and budget allocations.
- Manages supplemental funding and financial reporting.
- Ensures responsible use of graduate student activity fees.

Vice President of Programming

- Plans and executes events and programs for graduate and professional students.
- Works with committees and student organizations on programming.
- Builds community through social, professional, and wellness events.

The time commitments for each position differ, although most are under 10 hours a week. Once you've decided which position you'd like to run for, please read over its official duties in our [Bylaws](#).

Who is eligible to run?

You are eligible to run if you:

- Are a graduate or professional student at the University of Pittsburgh enrolled in Fall 2026.
- Will remain enrolled for the duration of the 26-27 academic year.
- Have official residency in the Greater Pittsburgh area by the start of the term.
- Meet any role-specific criteria outlined in the GPSG Constitution & Bylaws.
- Have not served more than two consecutive terms in the same position.

No prior GPSG or student government experience is required.

How long is the term?

Executive Board officers serve a one-year term, beginning May 1st.

Officers are expected to participate in transition and onboarding activities before the start of the academic year, as early as March 1st.

What else should I know about serving on GPSG?

Serving on GPSG is a meaningful leadership opportunity that involves:

- Regular meetings (Executive Board meetings and Assembly Board meetings).
- Collaboration with students, administrators, and staff.

- Time commitment that varies by role (generally several hours per week).
- Responsibility to act professionally and in the best interest of graduate and professional students.

Executive Board members are expected to be accessible, communicative, and accountable. Each officer must not be out of contact with the GPSG EB or otherwise be unreachable for an extended time (three weeks or more) during the elected term.

Officer positions are eligible to receive a student government payout, contingent upon University policy.

What does campaigning entail?

- Candidates may begin formal campaigning starting on February 10. Candidates may tell other people that they intend to run before this date, but may not engage in activities that encourage other people to vote for them (mass emails, flyering, etc.). Campaigning early will result in disqualification.
- Campaigning is candidate driven. GPSG will not endorse any candidates, although we will offer equal opportunities to be featured on our social media, website, and email newsletters.
- All candidate, photos, biographies and statements will be posted to the GPSG website. Please encourage students to check out the website to learn more about you.
- You may also encourage students to vote for you through social media, your email lists, and tabling and your school. Other suggestions include:
 - Distributing or posting flyers (please adhere to the University posting policy).
 - Contacting your school for information regarding tabling.
 - Gathering support from your school and students group of which you are a part.
 - Emailing listservs and posting on groupchats.
 - Connecting to students from other schools.
- You are not expected to incur any cost while campaigning.
- Negative campaigning will result in candidate disqualification.

Who votes and when?

- All graduate and professional students at Pitt are eligible to vote.
- Voting takes place electronically during the published voting window.

- Voters will see your photo, name, candidate statement, and potentially other submitted information, space pending.
- Ballots are accessed through experience.pitt.edu.

Voting will take place from February 16 to February 22.

How will I be trained?

Elected Executive Board members receive:

- Transition meetings with outgoing officers.
- Documentation and role-specific training.
- Support from staff advisors and the Executive Administrator.
- Ongoing guidance throughout the term.

How can I learn more?

- Read through our website or scroll our social media for more information about what GPSG does.
- Read position duties below, review the [Bylaws](#), and reach out to any of the current Board for more information about the role. Some roles will require more time than others.
- The GPSG Executive Board will host two information sessions in January. Information on how to register is on the website.
- Winning candidates should expect to start receiving training for their position as early as March 1.
- There will be two opportunities to observe an Assembly Board meeting before the new Executive Board meeting is formally elected: January 22 and February 19 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Information about attending Assembly Board meetings is on our [Calendar](#) page.

How do I submit my candidacy?

To run, [you must submit a response to this form](#) by February 9. This includes:

- Basic candidate information.
- The position you are seeking.
- A short bio and candidate statement.
- A headshot/photo.

All submissions are made through the official online candidacy form linked to the GPSG Elections page. Only complete and timely submissions will be accepted.