

## Support Process for Injured Graduate/Professional Students

**Student Eligibility:** This injured student support process is available to any registered graduate/professional student, including those registered *in absentia*.

**First Seek Medical Help:** If you are injured first seek medical help.

**For an Injury Related to Cornell Activities, File a University Injury Report:** If your injury occurred on University property or while participating in a University-related activity (e.g., learning, teaching, research, service), complete the [online injury-illness-exposure reporting form](#). (You may have someone else help you do this if needed.) Check off the category for “graduate and professional students” and complete the form. Filing the injury report will trigger a review and response by Cornell’s Environmental Health and Safety Department. Please contact the Senior Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life with any questions or concerns who will then engage other campus offices to coordinate proper support for your needs as a student with an injury.

**For an Injury Unrelated to Cornell Activities:** If your injury did not happen while participating in a University-related activity but may have implications that affect your progress in your graduate/professional degree program, contact the Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life to help you connect with appropriate offices on campus regarding disability accommodations, health leave of absence, or other assistance. If you are injured when not participating in a University-related activity your medical expenses will be covered under your health insurance plan. Out-of-pocket expenses for deductibles and co-pays generally will be your responsibility.

**Initial University Support for Injuries Related to Cornell Activities:** When you file an online injury reporting form and check the graduate/professional student box, the University injury reporting system will trigger involvement by appropriate offices to communicate with you and support your overall academic and personal concerns. The Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Life will engage professional school student services if appropriate, and other offices such as Graduate Academic and Student Affairs, University Health Services, Student Disability Services, International Students and Scholars Office, Dean of Students, Director of Graduate Studies, etc. Which offices become involved will depend on the specific support needs you have as a student with an injury.

These offices will contact you and collaborate with each other to support your needs and determine the best steps to help your recovery and your continued academic progress.

**Workers’ Compensation Coverage For Funded Students Injured While Performing Duties on Behalf of Cornell:** For funded graduate students (assistantship, fellowship, or hourly wage) who are injured while performing duties on behalf of Cornell, filing a University injury report will trigger a review by the University’s Risk Management and Workers’ Compensation Specialists. The injury claim is also sent to the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board.

The New York State Workers' Compensation Board reviews each case and determines compensability under New York State Law. Eligibility determination for Workers' Compensation is ultimately made by the New York State Workers' Compensation Review Board, not Cornell.

If the New York State Workers' Compensation Board rules that the injury claim is compensable through Workers' Compensation law, the following types of compensation would typically be addressed:

- **Medical Expenses:** All medical expenses are typically covered.
- **Short-term Stipend Replacement:** Stipend replacement at 100% of the student's current stipend would typically be covered for up to a 13-week period from the date of the claim, depending on the length of the recovery period.
- **Longer-term Stipend Compensation:** A New York State administrative law judge would review the claim and make a determination on any further compensation for which the injured student is eligible after the short-term stipend replacement period is over. Any additional benefits from that point forward typically would be based on the Workers' Compensation schedule established by the State.
- Any appeals must be directed to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, as governed by New York State Workers' Compensation law. Individuals covered under Workers' Compensation are barred by law from suing the employer (here, the University) for monetary damages arising from their injuries.

**Disability Accommodations and Health Leaves:** If you are unable to pursue your academic objectives or unable to complete specific university responsibilities because of health conditions related to your injury, seek accommodation through Cornell Student Disability Services or, if necessary, file for a Health Leave of Absence from Cornell Health (with involvement from the Graduate School or the professional school per Cornell [health leave](#) procedures).

## Appeals

If you believe Cornell's support for your injury has been inadequate, you may follow established grievance procedures in your academic unit (Graduate School or professional school) for topics that are subject to grievance procedures, or you may appeal to the dean of your academic unit for those issues not subject to grievance procedures. Any appeals related to Workers' Compensation benefits must be directed to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board, as governed by New York State Workers' Compensation law.