

Tuition Award Regulations

Source: Graduate Assistant Tuition Policy, Graduate Council Resolutions, including updates.

1 General – Both In- and Out-of-State

- 1.1 There have been no changes since last year in any aspect of the tuition awards for graduate students. However, please make note of the following important matters that continue to apply to graduate students and assistantships.
- 1.2 Students with **conditional admission** to a graduate degree program continue to be eligible to hold any type of graduate assistantship. Thus, departments may award a teaching, research, or administrative assistantship to a student with regular or conditional admission without seeking special permission from the Graduate Dean.
- 1.3 A **conditionally admitted student** whose graduate GPA falls below 3.0 at any time during his or her conditional status will not be allowed to hold a teaching assistantship; however, he or she may hold a research assistantship.
- 1.4 Conditionally and unconditionally (regularly) admitted students will not be placed on academic warning (formerly called probation) until after **at least 12 semester hours** have been completed with an overall graduate GPA of less than 3.0. (Under the previous policy, unconditionally admitted students could go on academic warning as early as after completing the first 6 hours.)
- 1.5 Students must be registered in the semester for which they are receiving their assistantships in accordance with the Graduate School's **Minimum Registration Requirements**.
- 1.6 The Council has determined that the following **may not hold graduate assistantships**:
 - (a) Students in non degree status;
 - (b) Students on academic warning. Only graduate students are allowed to hold graduate assistantships. Students, who have not yet earned a baccalaureate, even if they are participating in programs such as the University Scholars Program, are not allowed to hold graduate assistantships.
- 1.7 Students who have **provisional language admission** are eligible to hold externally funded research assistantships, but may not take graduate classes and may not hold any type of teaching assistantship or internally funded research assistantship until the language provision has been removed.
- 1.8 **General Tuition Award.** The award of an assistantship of 0.50 FTE or greater that is funded by Academic Affairs as a permanently budgeted Graduate Teaching, Research, or Administrative Assistantship entitles the student to an award equal to the cost of in- and out-of-state tuition for the semester appointed. In order to qualify, each student must be (1) admitted as a degree candidate, (2) enrolled in Graduate or Law School, and (3) have a signed memorandum of appointment on file.
- 1.9 In order to receive a full tuition award for the semester, the **appointment must be made before the last day of the drop period**.

- 1.10 If the **assistantship is less than 0.50 FTE**, the award is reduced proportionately. For example, a student with 0.25 FTE is entitled to an award equal to half of the student's total tuition cost.
- 1.11 The **maximum award** available will be the amount of tuition charged for 9 - 15 graduate semester hours. The rates are published each semester by Student Receivables.
- 1.12 **Combined Tuition Awards.** Where a graduate student is awarded a combination of assistantships, fellowships, and other tuition scholarships, he or she can never receive combined tuition awards that total more than the maximum tuition rate for 9 - 15 hours. However, other scholarships that are **NOT** directed to pay tuition can still be awarded even where the maximum tuition has already been paid.
- 1.13 **Out-of-state tuition support will only be awarded to students where the assistantship is for 0.25 FTE or greater.**
- 1.14 The budget officer in each college has the information concerning authorized permanently budgeted assistantships, the total number of 0.50 FTE appointments, and the maximum dollar value of the semester tuition grants. These are permanently budgeted funds allocated by Academic affairs and do not include any departmental-funded assistantships. The Graduate School will not approve any requests in excess of these limits unless separate authorization has been obtained from Academic Affairs.
- 1.15 **Sponsored Programs Assistantships.** Where an assistantship of 0.25 FTE or greater is supported from externally sponsored research funds, and the agency will pay the in-state tuition only, then the student will be entitled to an award from Graduate School funds for the out-of-state portion of the tuition. The amount of the award will be prorated in the same way as regular awards based upon the FTE of the appointment.
- 1.16 **Auxiliary/Department Funded Assistantships.** No award is available under this program if the assistantship is connected with auxiliary or self-supporting activities or is paid from state line items or any other permanently budgeted funds that are **NOT** allocated by Academic Affairs. This includes all assistantships funded on contracts and grants **NOT** administered through Office for Sponsored Programs.
- 1.17 All **non-native speakers of English** must successfully complete the University's International Teaching Assistant Program (ITAP) before they can hold any teaching assistantship (category 40050 and 44010 Position Classes). Please refer to the attached schedule that sets out permissible assistantship types for each level of ITAP pass. **Departments MUST verify that the minimum level of ITAP pass has been achieved for the assistantship awarded.**

2 Key Dates

- 2.1 Please ensure that deadline dates are observed – this ensures that students are not inconvenienced and that they are able to confirm their class schedules before the deadline for confirmation with their full tuition scholarship credited to their student MyBama account.
- 2.2 For graduate assistants to have their **fall** tuition accounts cleared by the Office of Student Receivables before the confirmation deadline, all tuition awards must be posted to reach the Graduate School by the dates set by Student Receivables.

3 **Processing Tuition Awards**

- 3.1 Since fall 2009, all GA tuition awards are processed through the GA TOPS online system. NO FORMS ARE USED.
- 3.2 For information about the GA TOPS system, please refer to the Graduate School web pages “Graduate Assistant Tuition Online Processing System” under Graduate Administration.

4 **Special Situations**

- 4.1 Departmental awards may be made where budget is available. FOAPAL information for there are processed on GA TOPS as “non-permanent” awards.
- 4.2 Graduate students paid from restricted funds, self-supporting budgets, or budgets of auxiliary activities are not eligible for out-of-state tuition awards under this program.
- 4.3 Graduate assistants whose appointments are terminated before the end of the academic semester are eligible for reduced tuition awards as shown in the attachment “Effect of Early Withdrawal/Resignation on Tuition Award”.
- 4.4 Summer tuition break for spring GA’s not employed through the summer. The Graduate School will pay a special scholarship for these students who take summer classes. The amount of the out of state tuition surcharge based on the ratio of the FTE of the spring appointment to a regular 0.50 FTE position. Again, only assignments of 0.25 or above qualify for this award.

If you have any questions concerning tuition awards for the fall and spring semesters, please contact Mr. John Chambers at the Graduate School office on (205) 348-8282. This memo and its contents are displayed on the Graduate School’s website under [Administrative Policies, Policies for Graduate Assistants, Graduate Assistant Tuition Awards](#).