



Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12 November 2020

TO: School/College Deans

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Provost *AKS*
Laurent Heller, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration *LH*
William J. Karpus, Dean of the Graduate School

RE: FY22 Graduate Assistant Stipend Minima and Principles

This message is being sent to you ahead of an announcement to graduate programs and departments to allow your teams to put processes in place with your departments and faculty making the rate setting decisions.

With the new academic year, as well as the fall 2021 graduate student application process, well underway, it is time to start planning graduate assistantship (GA) rates for FY22 and this memorandum provides guidance. The Graduate School, in consultation with the Offices of the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, sets the **MINIMUM** rates for all GA titles.

Programs (with approval from their school/college) are required to determine and submit their FY22 assistantship rates to the Graduate School by December 18, 2020, at [Assistantship Rate Document](#). The actual graduate assistant stipend dollar amounts (per 50% appointment) that the department/program will pay graduate students should be entered in the worksheet. For example, if you plan to pay teaching assistants (TAs) the minimum stipend, you enter that dollar number. If you plan to supplement the minimum TA stipend with gift funds, enter the total dollar amount for the 50% assistantship appointment.

The rate setting procedure allows departments/programs to set market stipends for all GA mechanisms (RA, TA, PA, and LSA), which makes it simpler for prospective graduate students to compare offers from UW-Madison and other institutions, thus helping us compete for top students. We use adjustments to the dollar amount, rather than to appointment percentage, to set stipends.

The following principles should be considered as you determine rates for FY22:

- **Graduate programs/departments will work with their school/college dean's office** to establish rates at or above the campus minima, allowing for flexibility to accommodate different market factors while maintaining the principle that graduate students will not get a stipend cut from the previous year.
- The Graduate School's *Academic Policies and Procedures* describes [maximum levels of appointments](#) and [concurrent appointments](#).
- **Graduate students appointed as a RA must be paid the rate associated with the academic program in which they are enrolled.** If a graduate student is appointed as a RA in a different department, they are paid at the rate associated with their academic program home.
- When making admissions offers for Fall 2021 enrollment, departments/programs **should indicate to applicants in writing a 4- or 5-year funding package guarantee, contingent on satisfactory**

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academic progress and availability of funds. When making an offer of admission with a financial commitment, departments/programs must abide by the Council of Graduate Schools [April 15 resolution](#), to which UW-Madison is a signatory.

- Given the COVID-19 pandemic related budget challenges, the FY22 minimum rate for TA, PA, RA, LSA and PA grader/reader appointments will not be increased and remain the same as the previous year. The FY22 minimum rates for the University, Advanced Opportunity and Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships will also remain the same as FY21.

The FY22 GA **MINIMUM** funding rates are as follows:

Teaching assistantship (per 50% appointment)

Academic: \$20,500

Lecturer Student Assistant (per 50% appointment)

Academic: \$22,500

Project assistantship (per 50% appointment)

Academic: \$20,500

Annual: \$25,056

Research assistantship (per 50% appointment)

Academic: \$20,304

Annual: \$24,816

PA grader/reader

Hourly rate: \$21.57

University Fellowship, Advanced Opportunity Fellowship and Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship

Annual: \$28,000

Academic: \$22,909

The Graduate School will review rates reported by departments and programs in all categories and communicate approval or request changes by January 4, 2021.

Should you have any questions, please contact Associate Dean Lisa Martin (lisa.martin@wisc.edu)

cc: Rebecca Blank, Chancellor
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