Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

DATE: 1 November 2022

TO: School/College Deans

FROM: John Karl Scholz, Provost
Robert Cramer, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
William J. Karpus, Dean of the Graduate School

RE: FY24 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 2023 graduate student application process well underway, it is time to start planning graduate assistantship (GA) rates for FY24 and this memorandum provides guidance. The Graduate School, in consultation with the Provost and the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, sets the **MINIMUM** rates for GA and fellowship titles.

Programs/departments **(with approval from their school/college)** are required to determine and submit their FY24 assistantship rates to the Graduate School by **December 21, 2022,** via Google document link that will be provided to programs/departments**.** The actual graduate assistant stipend dollar amounts (per 50% appointment) that the department/program will pay should be entered in the worksheet. For example, if program/department plans to pay teaching assistants (TAs) the minimum stipend, enter that dollar number. If the program/department plans to supplement the minimum TA stipend with gift or other funds, enter the total dollar amount for the 50% assistantship appointment. The Graduate School will provide a preview of the stipend rates by January 9, 2023 before they are officially published on our website. We hope this information will eliminate the need for numerous retroactive changes to previously approved rates.

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. **Use adjustments to the dollar amount, and not changes to appointment percentage, to set stipends**.

The following principles should be considered as you determine rates for FY24:

- 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 (enrollment) home.

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Graduate students appointed as TA, LSA or PA are paid the rates associated with the hiring program/department.

- When making admissions offers for Fall 2023 enrollment, departments/programs **should indicate to applicants in writing a 4- or 5-year funding package guarantee,** contingent on satisfactory 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.
- The FY24 minimum rate for GA appointments shown below reflects an **10% increase** over current fiscal year. For Fund 101-funded TA, PA and LSA students, the Budget Office will provide a permanent supplement in your 2023-24 budget planning allocations to cover the cost of the increase. The increases in all the GA categories aim to ensure we remain at or above our Big Ten Academic Alliance peer group median minimum stipend levels.

The FY24 GA and fellowship **MINIMUM** funding rates are as follows and are effective for annual appointments on June 18, 2023, and for academic appointments on August 21, 2023:

Teaching assistantship (per 50% appointment)
Academic: $23,227

Lecturer Student Assistant (per 50% appointment)
Academic: $25,493

Project assistantship (per 50% appointment)
Annual: $28,388
Academic: $23,227

Research assistantship (per 50% appointment)
Annual: $28,388
Academic: $23,227

PA grader/reader
Hourly rate: $22.66

University Fellowship, Advanced Opportunity Fellowship and Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship
Annual: $30,000
Academic: $24,545

Due to rounding in HRS, the annual rates may vary by $1.00. The Graduate School will review rates reported by departments and programs in all categories and communicate approval or request changes by January 31, 2023. Should you have any questions, please contact Associate Dean Marcy Carlson (carlson@ssc.wisc.edu)

cc: Jennifer Mnookin, Chancellor
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