Graduate School
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

DATE: 30 November 2023

TO: School/College Deans
Department Chairs
Directors of Graduate Study
Graduate Program Coordinators

FROM: Charles Lee Isbell, Jr., Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Robert G. Cramer, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
William J. Karpus, Dean of the Graduate School

RE: FY25 Graduate Assistant Stipend Minima and Principles

With the fall 2023 graduate student application process for fall 2024 enrollment well underway, this memo communicates the FY25 **MINIMUM** graduate assistantship (GA) rates. 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 (UW-1238). Graduate stipends serve a dual purpose of providing resources to defray students' living expenses while pursuing an advanced degree and allowing universities and graduate programs to compete in the market with peer institutions/programs. This FY25 minimum stipend rate setting process is the first step in a multi-year graduate student support plan that is currently being developed. The plan will forecast graduate student minimum stipends three years into the future on an ongoing basis and allow for faculty, programs, departments, and schools/colleges to plan accordingly; moreover, the plan will consider multiple aspects of graduate student support in addition to stipends. Over the next five months, we will engage graduate students, faculty, staff, and institutional leadership to shape the plan. We will release this plan by March 15, 2024.

The rate-setting procedure allows departments/programs to set market stipends for all GA mechanisms (RA, TA, PA, and LSA), making 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**.

Programs/departments **(with approval from their school/college)** are required to determine and submit their FY25 assistantship rates to the Graduate School by **January 31, 2024,** via Google document link here**.** 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 the program/department plans to pay graduate assistants (TA, PA, RA) the minimum stipend, enter that dollar number. If the program/department plans to supplement the minimum GA stipend with gift or other funds, enter the total dollar amount for the 50% assistantship appointment.

The following principles should be considered as you determine rates for FY25:

- 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.
- Despite the increase in the minimum rates, those departments/programs that pay above the minima are expected to maintain their previous year's efforts.
- The Graduate School's *Academic Policies and Procedures* describes maximum levels of appointments and concurrent appointments.

Office of the Dean
217 Bascom Hall 500 Lincoln Drive Madison WI 53706-1380
www.grad.wisc.edu dean@grad.wisc.edu (608) 263-1353

- Graduate students appointed as an RA must be paid the rate associated with the academic program where they are enrolled. If a graduate student is appointed as an RA in a different department, they are paid at the rate associated with their academic program (enrollment) home. Graduate students appointed as TA, LSA or PA are paid the rates associated with the hiring program/department.
- When making admissions offers for Fall 2024 enrollment, departments/programs must indicate to applicants in writing a 4- or 5-year funding package guarantee, contingent on satisfactory academic and GA appointment 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 FY25 minimum rate for GA appointments shown below reflects a **14% increase** over current fiscal year. For Fund 101-funded TA, PA and LSA students, the Budget Office will provide a base supplement in your 2024-25 budget planning allocations to cover the cost of the increase. For RA and PA appointments funded from grants, Schools/Colleges will work with the Budget Office for one time transition funds.

The FY25 GA and fellowship **MINIMUM** funding rates are as follows for all new and continuing appointments and are effective for annual appointments on June 30, 2024, and for academic appointments on August 19, 2024. All active appointments in the current fiscal year must adjust stipend rates accordingly on these dates.

Teaching assistantship (per 50% appointment)
Academic: $26,506

Lecturer Student Assistant (per 50% appointment)
Academic: $29,068

Project assistantship (per 50% appointment)
Annual: $32,396
Academic: $26,506

Research assistantship (per 50% appointment)
Annual: $32,396
Academic: $26,506

PA grader/reader
Hourly rate: $25.83

University Fellowship, Advanced Opportunity Fellowship and Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship
Annual: $32,396
Academic: $26,506

Undergraduate Assistant (per 50% appointment)
Annual: $24,544
Hourly: $23.60

cc: Jennifer Mnookin, Chancellor
Cynthia Czajkowski, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education
David Murphy, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
Natalie Feggestad, Madison Budget Office
Patrick Sheehan, Chief Human Resource Officer, Office of Human Resources
Petra Schroeder, Associate Vice Chancellor, OVCRGE
Julie Karpelenia, Assistant Vice Chancellor, OVCRGE
Marcy Carlson, Associate Dean, Graduate School
Abbey Thompson, Assistant Dean, Graduate School
Alissa Ewer, Assistant Dean, Graduate School