

Graduate Assistantship Program

Presented by
Morehead State University Graduate School



Topics to be covered



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GA description

- A well-planned and properly executed graduate assistantship stimulates and nourishes the development of the committed student while providing financial support.
- The primary goals of an assistantship are:
 - To facilitate progress toward the timely completion of a graduate degree
 - To promote disciplinary proficiency and career success through involvement in rigorous academic endeavors supervised by a designated mentor



GA description (continued)

- An assistantship provides students with the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, strengthen communication skills, and develop leadership abilities.
- Assistantships are limited and very competitive.
- Most assistantships are offered for fall and spring semesters.



Types of GAs

- There are currently two types of GA positions available:
 - Graduate Teaching Assistant – available to students who meet eligibility requirements for teaching according to university guidelines and regulations.
 - Graduate Assistant – assists in support of research or scholarship that may or may not relate to the students thesis or capstone work and may perform various duties and tasks as directed by the department.



GA benefits

- Assistantships pay a stipend of \$10,000 per academic year (fall and spring) or \$5,000 per semester (fall and spring).
- The stipend is paid in the form of a bi-monthly salary typically beginning on August 30 for fall and January 30 for spring.
- It provides a flexible working schedule for students.
- Other benefits include employee parking rate, key issuance, and networking connections.



GA guidelines

- To be eligible for an assistantship **each semester**, students must be:
 - Admitted unconditionally to a graduate “degree” program. Conditionally admitted students may have one (1) semester only as a GA.
 - Enrolled and maintain full-time status of at least nine graduate hours but no more than a total of 13 hours per semester.
 - GAs may take less than nine hours in the final semester of their program.
 - Maintain a cumulative 3.0 or higher GPA each semester.



GA guidelines (cont'd)

- Devote 20 hours per week to duties.
- Students are eligible for a GA for two years or four semesters.



GA Responsibilities

- Graduate assistants are under the direct or assigned supervision of faculty or designated administrative staff members appointed by their GA department and will regularly report to their supervisor regarding the conduct and performance of their responsibilities.
- In the performance of their responsibilities, they must abide by the academic and instructional criteria and policies established by the department or program in which their assistantship is held.
- All graduate assistants shall uphold the academic



GA Responsibilities

standards of the university.

- Helpful suggestions for getting the most out of your GA:
 - Arrive to appointments on time.
 - Submit assigned work promptly.
 - When attending meetings, be prepared with specific goals, questions, and tasks that you would like to accomplish.
 - Communicate regularly with your supervisor.
 - Inform your supervisor of any additional training needed to accomplish your tasks/goals.



GA FAQs

1. Can I use my GA stipend to pay my tuition?

- **Answer:** Because the stipend is paid to the student in the form of a salary, it cannot be applied directly to the student's tuition account. However, if necessary, payment arrangements can be made which will allow the student to pay a certain amount towards their tuition each time they receive their payroll check. The student should visit the [Accounting and Financial Services](#) office to find out if they qualify to set-up payment arrangements.



GA FAQs

2. Do GAs receive any tuition waivers?

- **Answer:** The GA program does not currently offer any type of tuition waivers; however, this is a topic we hope to explore further in the near future.

3. Can I hold another job in addition to my assistantship?

- **Answer:** The Graduate School has a responsibility to assist you in the progress towards the successful completion of your program. Therefore, special permission from the Graduate School is required for university employment of that other than your assistantship.



GA FAQs

4. What happens if my GPA drops below the required 3.0 at the end of my semester?

- **Answer:** Failure to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA will result in the loss of the graduate assistantship position and benefits associated with the award.



Other information

We hope you found this orientation beneficial.

If you have additional questions regarding the Graduate Assistantship Program, please contact:

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Thank you!

