PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE ASSISTANT TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

ELIGIBILITY
To qualify for a graduate assistant (GA) appointment, a student must be admitted to a graduate degree program at PSU with either Regular status or Department Conditional Status and must be in good academic standing. (A student with University Conditional status is not eligible to hold an assistantship). In order to maintain eligibility, all GAs (regardless of funding source) must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 9 graduate credits each term the assistantship is in effect (except Summer Term), with term and cumulative GPAs of 3.00 or higher, and show satisfactory academic progress in fulfilling the requirements of the degree program. Satisfactory completion of a course at the graduate level is demonstrated with grades of A through B-, P, or IP (In Progress). Grades of C+ through F, NP, I, W, X, M, and AU are not satisfactory completion of a course at the graduate level.

There are two scenarios under which a GA can potentially register for fewer than 9 graduate credits in a term. First, a maximum 4 of the 9 required credits can be undergraduate credits if these undergraduate courses are needed as prerequisites or are important for the student’s program of study. Second, a GA can register for as few as 5 graduate credits in the final two terms before graduation provided no additional credits are needed to meet degree requirements.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT
Levels of appointment may be between 0.15 and 0.49 FTE per term. The typical assistantship is 0.30 FTE. Students appointed for an academic year (9 months) receive a salary each month during the academic year; students appointed for 12 months receive a salary each month of the year. Appointments for fiscal quarters essentially parallel the academic terms for which the instruction fee portion of the tuition is remitted. The carry over of a week or two from one fiscal quarter to another does not provide instructional fee remission for both academic quarters.

Under no circumstances can a graduate assistant hold a regular university position (unclassified or classified) concurrent with a graduate assistantship. If a GA also earns student wages or other graduate assistant wages, a maximum of .49 FTE (approximately 254 hours of work total per term) is allowed from all PSU appointments during each term the assistantship is in effect. For example, a graduate assistant with a 0.30 FTE appointment could work a maximum of 0.19 additional FTE in that term in any other PSU student positions. 1.0 FTE for 13 weeks is approximately 520 hours of work; 0.19 FTE (98 hours) maximum is available in that term for other student work at PSU.

SALARY, HOURS, AND PAY
All graduate assistantships must be for appointments between .15 and .49 FTE (inclusive) and must include both salary and tuition remission equivalent to at least the minimum established by the tuition remission schedule set each academic year (instructional costs only, at resident rates). Tuition remission will be applied directly to a GA’s student account at the beginning of the term provided the student is properly registered. (PE courses can never be covered with a GA remission.) GAs are responsible for notifying their employing department if their tuition remission has not been applied to their account by the beginning of the third week of the term. Nonresident graduate assistants are charged resident tuition rates for the terms of their graduate assistantship only. No vacation, medical, dental, or retirement benefits are paid, and no time toward tenure is accrued.

GTAs and GRAs are provided pay on a monthly basis as compensation for the service that has been provided. The salary is not directly dependent on the actual number of hours worked each month, but rather is paid for satisfactory performance of professional responsibilities as required by the Department Chair or program Director. However, as a guideline, the following formula can be used. Each term is 13 weeks. 13 weeks/term x 40 hours/week x .3 FTE = approximately 156 hours/term. If students are teaching assistants and do not work during term breaks, they would work about 15 hours per week; if they work the entire term, they would work about 12 hours per week (156 hours/13 weeks = 12 hours per week). Term dates are defined as follows: Fall term, September 16 – December 15; Winter term, December 16 – March 15; Spring term, March 16 – June 15; Summer term, June 16 – September 15.

GAs will be compensated on an hourly basis based on a 12 month term of service. GAAs will be responsible for submitting online timesheets through Banweb. Pay received each month will reflect actual hours worked for dates of the 16th of one month through the 15th of the next month.

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT
All appointments are made for a specific period of time (e.g., one term, 9 months, 12 months). Reappointment is not automatic, must be considered on a competitive basis, and is based upon an evaluation of the student's academic progress and performance as a graduate assistant. An appointment may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the University.

A GA who has been terminated by the Department may petition the Dean of the appropriate School/College for review of the termination action. After review, the Dean of the appropriate School/College will confirm the termination or reinstate the appointment.

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