Departmental Step-by-Step Process of Graduate Assistantships and Graduate College Tuition Scholarships

Note: Graduate Assistantship only steps are indicated with a red star *

GA position description process

• * Department creates GA Position description(s).
• * Department sends GA Position description(s) to Graduate College for review.
• * Department posts approved GA Position description(s) to their departmental website.

Graduate Assistantship and/or Graduate College Tuition Scholarship Processes in chronological order

• Departments receive Graduate Assistantship and/or Graduate College Tuition Scholarship applications from students.

• * Departments update GA position descriptions posted to their website with upcoming academic year’s dates and GA salary rates. This should be done as soon as the new GA salary rates are announced, usually in late January.

• Graduate College sends out original allocations letters to graduate academic departments around Mid-February.

• Under-Represented Minority Support Requests are due to the Graduate College around the 3rd week of February. (For Graduate Academic departments only). Departments requesting this funding will receive an email from the Graduate College a few days after the due date indicating if funding will be provided.

• Extra Graduate College Support Requests are due to the Graduate College in early March. Departments requesting this funding will receive an email from the Graduate College a few days after the due date indicating if funding will be provided.

• Departments review Graduate Assistantship and/or Graduate College Tuition Scholarship applications received from students.

• * Departments hold interviews for assistantship, which is optional, depending on the department. Interviews should be completed by mid-March in order to meet April 1st deadline.

• Departments determine Graduate Assistantship and/or Graduate College Tuition Scholarship recipient(s). Departments need to verify students meet qualifications:

  ♦ Student needs to be admitted into a UNI graduate program. (Students with a status of applicant cannot receive an offer)

  ♦ Student’s Plan GPA must be 3.0 or higher. First semester graduate student’s cumulative undergraduate GPA must be 3.0 or higher.

  ♦ NOTE: Student does NOT need to be enrolled in order to receive an offer.

• Departments prepare and submit offer form(s) for each individual by using the Electronic Offer Form System. This process can start in mid to late February. **Any Graduate College funded offer must be received in the Graduate College no later than April 1st.** It is strongly recommended departmental
funded assistantships are received in the Graduate College by April 1st but the due date for those is July 1st. The reasons for the April 1 due date are as follows:

♦ Council of Graduate Schools Resolution – Students should have an opportunity to consider more than one Institution’s offer and should have until April 15th to do so.

♦ Recruiting – We want students to have UNI’s offer(s) as early as possible, but no later than the beginning of April so the student considers attending UNI.

♦ Financial Aid – In order to calculate accurate aid packages, the Office of Financial Aid needs to have the information about assistantships and/or scholarships students are receiving a few weeks prior to the date when student financial aid packages are sent out (around mid-May).

♦ International Student VISA timing – It takes approximately 3 months (sometimes longer) for an international student to apply for a visa. UNI Admissions sends out an I-20 form based on the student’s financial documentation and awards.

- Submitted electronic offer form routes for approvals to department head and then to the Graduate College.
- Graduate College reviews offer form and verifies that the student meet requirements. If the offer form is incorrect, it is rejected with a note. If offer form is correct and student meets requirements, an official offer is made to student by the Graduate College and carbon copied to emails listed on offer form.
- Student accepts or declines offer(s). Students have until April 15th to make their decision. If offer letter is sent after the April 15th due date the student is given 7 business days to make their decision.
- If student declines offer(s), the department has 5 business days to submit offer form to a different student. (It is recommended that departments keep a waiting list for this situation.)

* Fall GA PAF’s can be created starting after July 1st. Do NOT create any GA PAF’s prior to July 1st.

* Fall GA PAF’s can be submitted once student meets ALL requirements. Fall Graduate College Tuition Scholarship holds will be released by the Graduate College shortly before the start of the fall semester as long as the student meets ALL requirements. Requirements are listed below and also listed in the student’s offer letter.

* Spring GA PAF’s can be created starting mid-November.

* Spring GA PAF’s can be submitted once student meets ALL requirements. Spring turn-around time is short so GA PAF’s can be submitted prior to the posting of fall grades. The Graduate College will verify GPA after fall grades are posted and before approving the PAF. Spring Graduate College Tuition Scholarship holds will be released by the Graduate College shortly before the start of the spring semester as long as the student meets ALL requirements. Requirements are listed below and also listed in the student’s offer letter.

Requirements before student’s award paperwork can be submitted and approved

- Students must be enrolled for at least 9 graduate credit hours by Thursday, August 17, 2017 (January 4, 2018 for spring). Workshops, off-campus courses, audit courses, and guided independent study (correspondence) courses cannot be used as part of this minimum load. GC Tuition Scholarship recipients
minimum load requirements cannot include any courses through Continuing Education and Special Programs. Students with a graduate assistantship who fail to enroll in 9 qualifying graduate credit hours by the end of the day on August 17, 2017 (January 4, 2018 for spring) will be moved to a late start date of the 2nd week of the semester on August 28, 2017 (January 15, 2018 for spring).

• Students must have an official transcript on file in the Office of Admissions showing that their bachelors (or any other required) degree has been conferred.

• Students must be unconditionally admitted to degree status in a graduate degree program (provisional admission will be considered only for non-GPA reasons).

• Students need to be declared in a graduate degree program. This is shown in the Student Information System.

• * If students did not have a Graduate Assistantship in the prior semester, they must complete new hire paperwork with Human Resource Services.

• Students must have, and maintain, a degree plan grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher during the entire semester. If students receive a grade or grade change in mid semester, which results in a GPA below 3.0, their award(s) will be terminated immediately.

♦ All prior semester grades need to be posted in order for GPA to be verified. It is the student's responsibility to contact their instructor when a grade is missing to make sure it gets posted timely.

♦ Students with a grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be able to start their assistantship and/or receive their Graduate College Tuition Scholarship until a grade is posted for that course and then their GPA will be verified. For more detailed information review any of the documents located on the Graduate College website https://grad.uni.edu/assistantships. Some of these are:

• GA Handbook

• Procedures and Information for Completing Graduate Assistantship & GC Scholarship Paperwork

• Guidelines for the Administration of Graduate College Tuition Scholarships

• Graduate Assistantship Position Descriptions and Possible Duties