

**GTA/GRA Stipend and Fellowship Guidelines**  
**Department of Biological Sciences, AU**  
**August 2009**

1. **Tuition Waivers** (fellowships) are provided to students with Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAs) or Graduate Research Assistantships (GRAs) of at least 25% (  $\frac{1}{4}$  full-time equivalency (FTE). Regulations impose term/credit hour limits on the duration of tuition waiver availability.

Master's (M.S. or M.S. -NT) students with at least a  $\frac{1}{4}$  time GTA or GRA, are eligible for a tuition waiver for **2 years (as GRA) or for 40 credit hours (as a GTA)**. Ph.D students with at least a  $\frac{1}{4}$  time GTA or GRA, are eligible for a tuition waiver for **4 years (as GRA) or for 80 credit hours (as a GTA)**. Students may track their tuition waiver balance and status on the "GTUFS" website at:

<http://graduate.auburn.edu/GTUFS/>

Students who receive their Master's degree at Auburn and are now pursuing a Ph.D here will receive support for **no more than 40 credit hours past your Master's degree up to 80 total hours for Master's and Ph.D.**

2. **GTA and GRA eligibility** is granted when a student registers for at least **1 hour** of credit, which may be a graded (didactic) or non-graded course (e.g., BIOL 7990/8990). Students **do not** need to be a full-time or half-time student to be granted an assistantship. If students exceed their fellowship term limits but are on GTA or GRA (  $\frac{1}{4}$  time or higher) they may receive in state tuition but must request this from the graduate school and bursars office as it may not be automatic. (i.e., pay only in-state tuition and fees.)
3. If a student holding a GTA/GRA drops or is dropped from enrollment from all course work after the drop date and while they are receiving a waiver, the university will terminate the assistantship and the tuition waiver, and the student will be billed for out-of-state tuition for the originally registered course work. The safe rule of thumb is **stay enrolled for at least 1 hour of course work for the entire semester**, and you will not lose your assistantship or your waiver. \* Note late registration, i.e., past the 8<sup>th</sup> day of class can delay your tuition waiver and stipend, thus it is very important to be enrolled prior to this date to avoid problems with late pay and tuition bill issues.
4. If students are within 2-3 semesters (MS) or 5-6 semesters (Ph.D) of completing their degree, they may want to consider registering for "Thesis Completion" (MS) or "Dissertation Completion (Ph.D), and thus students pay for only one hour of in-state tuition. There are several criteria that must be met to register for this option, check the online form:  
[https://fp.auburn.edu/gradschl/public\\_html/forms/registration.asp](https://fp.auburn.edu/gradschl/public_html/forms/registration.asp)  
This form must be signed by the GPO or department head and sent to the graduate school each semester (no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> class day) to be considered a full time student.

