



Graduate Assistant Salary Guidelines (attachment to PS-48)

January 1, 2023

The LSU AgCenter seeks to align with other campuses in providing stipends for terminal degree (TD) graduate students at rates that meet or exceed the cost of living. These students not only disseminate knowledge, but also generate new knowledge. Furthermore, these students often work for several years, sometimes supporting families in the process. The goal is to provide stipends equivalent to a living wage to improve the student quality of life, increase competitiveness of its graduate programs, support its undergraduate teaching mission, and enhance its mission to produce top-tier scholarship.

To ensure that workloads and compensation rates are comparable across a wide variety of current practices, all specifications of Graduate Assistant positions are based on a Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of 9 months' work at 20 hours/week rate. The duties and expected FTE must be outlined in the graduate assistant's job description.

Graduate Assistant salary rates effective Fall 2023 and beyond:

- 1) All TD graduate assistants receiving a 9-month 50% FTE Graduate Assistantship regardless of sources of funds will receive a minimum stipend of \$23,000.
- 2) All TD graduate assistants receiving a 12-month 50% FTE Graduate Assistantship regardless of source of funds will receive a minimum stipend of \$30,667.
- 3) NTD Research Assistants budgeted on grant proposals do not need to conform to the rates stated in items 1 and 2.

Notes:

At any given time, the AgCenter has approximately 200 Grad Assistants on staff on 12-month assistantships. The Graduate Assistants employed through the College of Ag are generally on 9-month assistantships. Terminal degree students on 9-month, 20-hour per week assistantships will be paid a minimum of \$23,000 per academic year. At this FTE rate, a 12-month terminal degree Graduate Assistant will be paid a minimum of $(\$23,000/9) * (12) = \$30,667$.

Terminal Degrees (TD): all research degrees, including PhD, DD, DMA, and other "Doctoral" degrees; all Master of Fine Arts degrees.

Non-Terminal Degrees (NTD): Any degree other than those TD listed above.