

Enhanced Graduate Teaching Assistantship Policies

21 March 2012

In order to recruit very high achieving students to our doctoral programs, the Office of the Provost and the Office of Graduate Studies created the Enhanced Graduate Teaching Assistantship (EGTA) program. To standardize this program across all of our doctoral programs, the following EGTA policies are in effect.

General Policies

- EGTA positions are distributed to programs at the discretion of college and school Deans.
- Every year colleges/schools should develop effective recruiting strategies for these nationally competitive positions so that we can fill them with the best students possible. Deans must email their recruiting plans for their college/school Ph.D. programs to Alisa Johnson (alisa@uta.edu) by mid-April.
- EGTA stipends and accompanying full tuition fellowships are for 9 months and, unless otherwise specified, may only be initially awarded to new students in Ph.D. or BS to Ph.D. programs. [Select programs offering the terminal MFA or similar terminal master's degree may be eligible for EGTA positions upon approval by the provost.] Programs may elect to award EGTAs to eligible students admitted in the Fall and Spring semesters.
- New doctoral students offered EGTA funding are guaranteed up to five years of funding. Within this framework, Ph.D. programs have the flexibility to manage their resources and offer less than five years of EGTA funding to these students. This funding may consist of some combination of Enhanced Graduate Teaching Assistantships (EGTAs) with full tuition fellowships and grant-funded research assistantships that may include some tuition coverage. For Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs, this support may also include graduate teaching assistantships with STEM tuition fellowships, or grant-funded research assistantships with STEM tuition fellowships. (Please see https://mavspace.uta.edu/departments/provost/public/STEM_Tuition_Policy_Current.pdf for the current UT Arlington STEM Doctoral Research and Teaching Assistant Fellowship Policy.)
- If a student vacates an EGTA position, the position may be reassigned to another qualified student (see Eligibility for Award).
- An EGTA award is not transportable across programs. EGTA funds are tied to EGTA positions in departments rather than to students. If a student changes programs, the award does not follow him or her to the new program. A vacated position may be reassigned to another qualified student in the same department (see Eligibility for Award).

- Stipends of EGTAs who convert to GRAs must have their stipends set between 75% and 100% of their EGTA stipends. The Office of Research and the Office of Graduate Studies will enforce this requirement. Ph.D. programs and departments may develop policies that encourage EGTAs to become GRAs and must notify the Office of Graduate Studies of these policies.
- No individual faculty mentor can have more than 2 students holding an EGTA appointment in their research group. Deans may establish policies in their college/school that further restrict this limitation.

Eligibility for Award

- To be eligible for EGTAs, newly admitted students must have a GPA of at least 3.0 in their last 60 undergraduate credit hours plus at least a 3.25 GPA in any graduate level credit hours, be unconditionally admitted to their degree program, and satisfy English proficiency requirements necessary to hold a graduate teaching assistantship. Ph.D. programs may set higher requirements but must notify Joe Jackson (jackson@uta.edu) and Alisa Johnson (alisa@uta.edu) in the Office of Graduate Studies describing these additional requirements.
- Programs may reassign available EGTA funds from vacated positions to support Ph.D. students who have passed their comprehensive examinations and who have not previously held an EGTA. Such students are eligible to receive up to two years of EGTA support and will be expected to graduate within five years of initial admission to the doctoral program. Angela Ezell (ezell@uta.edu) in the Office of Graduate Studies must be notified of these appointments.
- New doctoral students with significant initial external funding through programs such as GAANN, the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF), Vietnam International Education Development (VIED), CONACyT, and LSAMP Bridge to Doctorate are eligible to receive EGTA funding later in their studies when their external funding has ended. However, the number of years of support provided jointly through external funding and EGTA funding may not exceed 5 years.
- An EGTA may not be offered to a student who does not meet these requirements unless an exception request and justification has been reviewed and approved by the Office of Graduate Studies. Units seeking an exception must submit the Assistantship Exception (Assist EX) form in WebNow (<https://imagenow1.uta.edu/webnow>). Information regarding the Assistantship exception process is available on the Office of Graduate Studies website (<http://grad.uta.edu/faculty/forms/-fellowships>). OGS will notify the unit in WebNow of the approval or disapproval of the exception.

Eligibility for Continuation of Award

- Continued support is dependent upon a student making acceptable progress toward his or her degree and satisfactory performance as a GTA or GRA.
- Ph.D bound EGTA students must be enrolled full time for 9 hours in long semesters and appointed 50% time. After passing their comprehensive exams, EGTA (Ph.D. bound) students must enroll in at least 6 hours until their final semester when they may enroll in 7399.
- An EGTA who falls below the minimum requirement of a 3.0 GPA will lose the EGTA and tuition fellowship. Said student may be supported on a regular GTA with no tuition fellowship for one semester. Students meeting eligibility requirements by the end of that semester may be reappointed as EGTAs. However, the restored EGTA appointment will not be extended to cover the semester in which the student was ineligible for the EGTA and tuition fellowship. Programs should establish a clear policy on restoring EGTAs to all students who return to good academic standing or satisfy the English proficiency requirement and notify the Office of Graduate Studies about this policy.

Duration

- New doctoral students offered EGTA funding are guaranteed a maximum number of years of support as defined by the department, but this maximum may not exceed five years. Students who previously have not held an EGTA but have passed their comprehensive exams are eligible for a maximum of two years of EGTA support.

Awarding EGTA Positions

Programs may offer EGTA support packages to students meeting all minimum requirements set by the Office of Graduate Studies and any additional requirements set by the admitting department. So that we can track awards, units must cc the Office of Graduate Studies (gradfunding@uta.edu) when an offer is made. Units are responsible for entering the appropriate service indicator for all EGTAs in MyMav. Job code 0066 must be used for all EGTA position appointments. The Office of Graduate Studies has available a template of an offer letter for awarding EGTA appointments.

Assessment

The goal of the EGTA program is to create a foundation for improving our doctoral programs and degree production. Accordingly, the Provost has charged the Office of Graduate Studies with regularly assessing the performance of our Ph.D. programs. **Those programs not graduating their EGTA doctoral students at a significantly better rate than the University's 3-year average Ph.D. graduation rate will lose EGTA position(s).** Preference for continuing to invest in EGTAs in a program will be based on these graduation rates and, if appropriate, on the conversion of enhanced GTAs to GRAs. A unit may request an additional year of EGTA funding

for a student because of unusual circumstances. The Office of Graduate Studies will review and approve or deny the request. Both the program's retention and graduation rates for students who have received EGTA positions in the department will be important evaluation criteria.