

## Graduate Assistantships

**Teaching Assistantships** – T.A.'s work with students in a specific course or lab to provide support for the faculty member in charge, and in some cases, to teach the course as the primary instructor. Teaching assistantships are awarded for 4 long semesters (fall and spring) only. PhD. Students may be awarded a teaching assistantship for up to 6 long semesters.

**Research Assistantships** – R.A.'s are normally employed by the principal investigator of a grant funded research project or may be employed by an academic department in the pursuit of its broader research mission. R.A.'s will be assigned to a range of duties, such as library searches, fieldwork, lab experiments and preparation of reports. Work on a research project often leads to a thesis or dissertation or a professional presentation or publication and provides long-range development for the student's development as a scholar. Research assistantships may be awarded to students for as long as there is funding in the grant account or at the discretion of the principle investigator.

- Assistantships are half time appointments and students are expected to work 20 hours per week.
- Graduate assistants appointed at half time are eligible for medical insurance coverage by paying one-half of the premium for employee only coverage or a proportionate rate for optional coverage for employee and family.

### Eligibility for an Appointment

To be eligible for an assistantship, an applicant must satisfy University, Graduate School and departmental requirements. Graduate Assistantships are considered security sensitive positions by the University and criminal histories will be checked. The Graduate School requires the individual to have clear or provisional admission to a graduate program and must register for 6 credit hours during the fall and spring and 3 credit hours during maymester/summer I or II. Students admitted on probation or as post-baccalaureate students are not eligible for an assistantship.

The only exception to the 6/3 credit hours rule is if a student is graduating or does not wish to be on an assistantship the following semester. A student may be required to take more hours if they are on financial aid. If a student applies for graduation, registers for less than the required hours and does not graduate, he is not eligible the following semester for an assistantship. However, a student may be placed on student employment if applicable.