

UT Arlington STEM Doctoral Research and Teaching Assistant Fellowship Policy

In effect for Academic Year 2017-18

Select graduate students at UT Arlington are eligible to participate in a fellowship program designed for doctoral degree seeking students which will afford them significantly reduced tuition.

Program Overview

The Office of Research will provide up to 3-years of tuition support for STEM GTAs in the College of Engineering (COE), College of Science (COS), College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs (CAPP), and College of Nursing and Health Innovations (CONHI) BS-to-PhD and PhD students.

Since all STEM PhD must be provided equivalent support (per federal requirements), tuition support for all STEM PhD students whose tuition is not covered by the Office of Research must be covered by the PI, department or college through a grant or other source. For eligible students appointed to grant and contract accounts that allow the STEM tuition to be paid under this program, the costs must be charged to the grant account in direct proportion to their stipend allocated on the grant. The Office of Research will not cover the tuition fellowship for eligible STEM GRAs.

If a student's status is changed from "EGTA" to "GRA" (either temporarily or permanently), the student's stipend as a GRA must be between 75-100% of his/her EGTA stipend.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the STEM Doctoral Tuition Fellowship, a doctoral degree seeking graduate student (STEM Doctoral Student) must:

- a. Be enrolled as a PhD-level student or in a BS-PhD track in the College of Engineering (COE), College of Science (COS), College of Architecture, Planning and Public Affairs (CAPP), and College of Nursing and Health Innovations (CONHI) College of Science (COS) or College of Engineering (COE).
- b. Hold a Graduate Research (GRA) or Teaching Assistantship (GTA) appointment for at least 50% time (employed 20 hours per week) at the University in an academic unit or in an Organized Research Center of Excellence (ORCE).
- c. Maintain the 50%-time appointment (as described immediately above) for the entire semester.
- d. Be paid at least the minimum stipend amount required by the academic unit's GRA/GTA pay plan, but not less than an annualized rate (100% appointment basis) of \$30,000 (\$1,250 per month at 50% appointment).
- e. Maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- f. Be unconditionally admitted to a BS-Ph.D. or Ph.D. program.
- g. Be enrolled full time (9 hours in a long semester and 6 hours in the summer).

Exception #1: Students who have passed their comprehensive exams must enroll in at least 6 semester credit hours in a long semester.

Exception #2: Doctoral students in their final semester may enroll in a 3 hour dissertation course (7399).

Students for whom the following conditions apply are *ineligible* for the fellowships:

- a. prior enrollment as a graduate student for 14 or more long semesters AND more than 99 semester credit hours of doctoral study at UT Arlington
- b. on academic probation (i.e. having a GPA of less than 3.0).

Tuition Funding

- a. Doctoral students who have not yet passed their comprehensive examinations must be enrolled full time. These students will receive tuition support for 9 semester credit hours in a long semester and 6 semester credit hours in the summer, less statutory tuition.
- b. Doctoral students who have passed their comprehensive examinations must enroll in at least 6 semester credit hours until their final semester. Post comprehensive exam students will only receive tuition support for 6 semester credit hours, less statutory tuition. Tuition expenses for enrollment in excess of 6 hours will not be covered by the STEM program, but must be assumed by sources other than the Office of Research (e.g. the student, the department or college).
- c. In their final semester, doctoral students may enroll in a 3 hour dissertation course (7399). These students will receive tuition support for 3 semester credit hours, less statutory tuition. Tuition expenses for enrollment in excess of 3 hours will not be covered by the STEM program, but must be assumed by sources other than the Office of Research (e.g. the student, the department or college).