

# **GASP for Students Supported on Extramurally Funded (Grants or Contracts) Research Assistantships**

*The following policy applies to all sponsored research proposals and contracts submitted to an external sponsor on or after XX/XX/XXX.*

## **Explanation of Policy and Procedures**

Graduate students holding full-time research assistantships funded on extramural grants and contracts during the academic year are eligible for tuition support via GASP, depending on funding availability. These Central Funds, administered by the Graduate School, pay tuition and health insurance for eligible students.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

- 1) **Source of RA Support:** The entire research assistantship (RA) must be funded from an extramural grant or contract managed by UNC Charlotte. Students funded on awards with waived or reduced Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs are only eligible to receive resident tuition and health insurance, regardless of their degree program of the student (see *Tuition and Health Insurance Benefits* below)
- 2) **Level of Support:** The assistantship must provide compensation at or above the minimum baseline level set by the Graduate School (FY2020: \$18,500 per academic year or \$9,250 per semester).
- 3) **Assistantship Duration:** Assistantships must be full-time (20 hrs/week) and last the entire semester (15 weeks). Partial semester (<15 weeks) and part-time (<20 h/week) assistantships are not eligible for prorated GASP benefits.
- 4) **Academic Performance:** Overall GPA of 3.0 or better.
- 5) **Enrollment Status:** Full-time enrollment, except for the student's final semester if less than 9 hours are required for graduation, or the student is enrolled in GRAD 9999 (allowed only once) or GRAD 9800.
- 6) **Residency Status:** Both resident and non-resident students are eligible. Yet, students who can obtain North Carolina residency for tuition purposes must attempt to do so. After the first two semesters of full non-resident tuition support, domestic students who reside in North Carolina are only eligible to receive resident tuition.
- 7) **Loss of Eligibility and Repayment of Benefits:** If a student fails to meet the eligibility requirements listed above during the term, s/he is responsible for the pro rata portion of the tuition. This condition does not apply to students who maintain their eligibility until they complete all requirements for the degree. In such cases, the student is not responsible for any portion of tuition for the semester.

## **Tuition and Health Insurance Benefits**

- 1) Masters Students

- a) Masters students are eligible to receive up to 9-credits per semester of resident tuition and health insurance for a **maximum of 4 semesters**.
  - b) Masters students in an early-entry program are eligible for support for a **maximum of 2 semesters**.
- 2) Doctoral Students
- a) Doctoral students are eligible to receive up to 9-credits per semester of resident tuition or non-resident tuition and health insurance for a maximum of 10 semesters if the student does not have a master's degree in the same or closely related field.
    - i) Doctoral students with a master's degree in the same or closely related field are eligible for a maximum of 6 semesters of funding.
    - ii) Doctoral students in an accelerated Ph.D. program may receive funding for a maximum of 8 semesters.
- 3) GASP awardees are eligible to receive the student health insurance plan offered by the University Health Center. The insurance premium for each term is paid by the Graduate School and is considered an employee benefit.
- a) The student health insurance policy only provides coverage for the student, **NOT** dependents.
  - b) Students wishing to decline insurance offered under GASP must contact the Student Health Services Office.
  - c) More information on the health insurance plan, including the procedure for waiving the benefit is available here: <https://studenthealth.uncc.edu/insurance/insurance>.

### **Deadlines**

To receive GASP support, eligible students must be registered for the appropriate number of credit hours and have a qualifying research assistantship no later than August 1 (Fall semester) and December 1 (Spring semester).

### **Eligible Education Costs, Courses and Credits**

The following courses and associated credit hours do not count toward the minimum semester credit and are not eligible to be covered by a GASP award:

- Audited courses.
- Courses outside a student's program of study unless the course is a prerequisite for a course in the major.
- Courses taken during summer terms.

Distance education courses do count toward the minimum registration requirement, but GASP only covers up to the on-campus tuition rate for the total hours registered.

- The benefit applies only to tuition charges and not student fees or tuition increments. Each student must pay the required fees (and any tuition increments) unless the source of his/her stipend provides funds specifically earmarked to pay these costs.

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) GASP on Grants**

### **1. How long can a student receive GASP support?**

*The duration of eligibility varies by academic program. Masters students are eligible to receive support for a maximum of 4 semesters. However, students in early-entry programs are only eligible to receive GASP support for up to 2 semesters. Doctoral students without a master's degree in the discipline are eligible for a maximum of 10 semesters from their start date of their program. Doctoral students with a master's degree in the same or closely related discipline are eligible to receive 6 semesters of funding.*

### **2. Do internships meet the eligibility requirement for GASP support?**

*Off-campus internships, paid or unpaid, do not satisfy the requirement that a student hold an eligible graduate assistantship to qualify for GASP. Similarly, Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) opportunities do not qualify.*

### **3. Can a student receive GASP for only one semester?**

*Yes, a student may receive one semester of GASP support for a full-time research assistantship that spans the entire semester.*

### **4. Can a student receive partial or prorated GASP support for a research assistantship that starts during the semester?**

*GASP support is only available to students that are supported full-time for the entire semester. Electronic Graduate Assistant (eGA) applications must be submitted by August 1 and December for students to receive GASP support for the fall and spring semesters, respectively.*

### **5. Can stipend support for a student come from more than one extramural support?**

*Yes, up to two extramural sources (grants or contracts) can be used to provide the level of support needed to meet the eligibility requirements for GASP.*

### **6. What is the health benefit offered through GASP?**

*Details of the health insurance benefit provided through GASP are available at <http://studenthealth.uncc.edu/content/insurance>*

### **7. Are summer courses covered by GASP?**

*GASP support is only available for coursework taken during the fall and spring semesters.*

### **8. What educational expenses are not covered by GASP?**

- *Student fees*
- *Tuition increments charged by the academic colleges*
- *Tuition for **audited** courses or courses that are not part of the academic program*
- *Tuition for courses taken during the summer.*

- Any tuition and fees associated with **distance education** courses above graduate level on-campus tuition

**9. As a PI on a grant, can I use grant funds to pay other cost of education?**

Yes, if the sponsor allows it, PIs are encouraged to budget for other costs of education, including student fees, tuition increments, and summer tuition, on their grants for students that are actively engaged in the funded project and receiving stipend support from the award.

**10. Whom can a student contact if s/he has questions about residency?**

Information on applying for NC residency is available at [www.resdetermination.uncc.edu](http://www.resdetermination.uncc.edu)

**11. When will students receive their GASP award?**

GASP funds will be added to each student's account before the deadline for tuition payment. Class schedules will not be held for non-payment; any student with an outstanding balance on cancellation for non-payment dates will have his/her course schedule dropped.