

Graduate Assistantships

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse offers a variety of graduate assistantships. Graduate assistantships include teaching (TA), research (RA), and program (PA) assistantships. Graduate assistantships are awarded by the academic program/department. Only students who are admitted and remain in good academic standing are eligible for a graduate assistantship. The student must be enrolled at UWL for credit or GRC 799 to be eligible. Graduate assistantships are awarded on a very competitive basis according to individual department/program criteria. Students may be awarded a graduate assistantship for no more than four semesters and two summers. Requests for exceptions to this policy should be submitted to the dean of the college in which the graduate program resides.

To apply, the graduate student communicates directly with the department of intended degree work. The Financial Aid Office does not administer the graduate assistantship program.

Assistantships are available to resident and nonresident students. Tuition and fees are not waived for graduate assistants although the out-of-state portion of tuition may be waived in some cases. Awards may be made for assistantships which require 14 to 20 hours of responsibilities per week during each semester of the academic year. Those with 14-hour assignments may carry up to 14 hours of graduate credit and those with 20-hour assignments should not exceed 12 graduate credits each semester.¹ Summer assistantships may be available.

UWL complies with the Council of Graduate Schools' *Resolution Regarding Graduate Scholars, Fellows, Trainees, and Assistants* which follows:

"Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor in that context. The conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. [UW-L notation: this deadline assumes a program begins in fall semester. Programs beginning earlier may have an earlier acceptance date.] In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which a commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organization subscribing to the above Resolution that a copy of this Resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer."

¹ Student workers may work up to the maximum of 25 hours per calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) during the academic year. Students may work full time during any week when classes are not in session. Periods during which "classes are not in session" include summer breaks, winter intersession, and spring break. Students enrolled in winter intersession or summer classes may work full time during those periods. A student may work a maximum of 1559 total hours in a rolling twelve-month period. (Until notified otherwise, there is a temporary exception to the hours cap granted for resident assistants, resident advisors, and resident counselors.) Student workers hours are aggregated for purposes of the ACA Employer Mandate and IRS reporting among all institutions in the UW System. Thus, a student worker's hours will be combined for all employment positions in more than one university department or more than one UW institution. Hours worked due to a Federal Work Study (FWS) program do not count toward the calculation of hours of service earned for purposes of the ACA.

Additional related information

Financial Aid: Graduate financial aid is awarded based on university enrollment status of degree seeking student. Students must be enrolled in at least five credits within a single semester or five credits during the summer to be eligible for financial aid. Students must be enrolled in at least nine credits within a single semester or nine credits during the summer to be considered full-time. Credits must be applicable to the student's declared degree program. Financial aid is reduced accordingly for students enrolled less than full-time, but at least half-time (five credits).

International Students: Both F-1 and J-1 student visa regulations require students to be enrolled full-time each fall and spring semester. Unless otherwise obligated by the requirements of their program or special circumstances as already described, full-time enrollment is defined as no less than nine graduate-level credits during the fall and spring semesters. Summer enrollment is not required by the U.S. federal government regulations for F-1/J-1 visa holders. However, summer enrollment may be required due to other circumstances. (See summer enrollment requirements for capstone continuation, graduate assistantships, and program progress.) Failure to maintain full-time status can result in loss of F-1/J-1 student benefits. Any exceptions to full-time enrollment must be authorized by International Education & Engagement (IEE). Permission by IEE to drop below full-time enrollment does NOT exempt an international student from meeting the enrollment requirement for assistantships.