



UNIVERSITY *of*
DENVER

MORGRIDGE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

GRADUATE ASSISTANT HANDBOOK

2015/16

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WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU RECEIVE A GTA/GRA APPOINTMENT

Congratulations! You have been awarded a unique professional opportunity related to your educational and professional goals and one that will contribute greatly to your professional and academic credentials.

YOUR SUPERVISOR/PI WILL:

- Notify MCE Budget and Planning of your appointment and request that the hiring process begin.
- Discuss the details of your GTA/GRA position at the time of your appointment (i.e. full-time, half-time or quarter-time).
- You will receive an email from the MCE Budget and Planning office with instructions on how to complete the background check.

NEXT STEPS CHECKLIST FOR GA:

1. ___ Familiarize yourself with the GA Handbook.
2. ___ Review and sign the GA Contract.
3. ___ Complete the necessary steps to secure the background check.
4. ___ Attend the mandatory GTA/GRA Orientation held prior to the start of the Fall Quarter.
5. ___ Complete the required I-9 and W-4 Human Resources paperwork. Every attempt will be made to allow the completion of these documents at the Orientation in early September.
6. ___ Attend the training session required by your Supervisor or PI that will provide specific position or grant-related training (IRB, SBER) and further details on your particular job duties.
7. ___ Familiarize yourself with the process to resolve issues.
8. ___ Discuss work schedules with your PI or supervisor.

STRATEGIES TO ENSURE SUCCESS

1. **Adhere to commitments** – Live up to commitments every time or contact a project director immediately to make other arrangements.
2. **Realize the sensitivity of the work that you represent** – Make sure to maintain the confidentiality of all data and use it only for position-related work.
3. **Treat everyone with respect** – including directors, peers, administrative staff, and the person on the phone, or anyone who enters any of the workspaces.
4. **Value the time and effort spent by others** – Do not take other members of the team for granted. Be on time to meetings and meet expected deadlines.
5. **Always maintain ethical conduct** – Be honest and refrain from deceitful practices.
6. **Keep personal issues at home** – Refrain from using work time for personal issues.
7. **Demonstrate the core values of professionalism** – appropriate attire, etiquette, punctuality, organization, and dedication to your job, just to name a few.

MCE GRADUATE ASSISTANT POLICY OVERVIEW

TYPES OF GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

The Morgridge College of Education has three types of graduate assistants (GA)

Graduate Research Assistants – GRA (Positions funded by research projects.)

Graduate Teaching Assistants – GTA (Positions funded by the college or university.)

Graduate Administrative Assistants – GAA (These positions are officially considered GTAs however may be referred to as GAAs due to the administrative rather than teaching nature of the work.)

GOALS FOR GA POSITIONS

Graduate assistantships enable the Morgridge College of Education (MCE) to provide financial support for graduate students while advancing the research, teaching and service mission of the college. Although the tasks involved in each position differ, the values remain consistent across positions.

To enhance the student experience

To accomplish a task or complete a project

To expand the skill set of the student

To enhance the resume of the student

TIME COMMITMENTS

.25 works 5 hours per week

.50 works 10 hours per week

1.00 works 20 hours per week

Typically GA contracts are for 9 months and run from September 1 to May 31st. There are a few GA positions that are 12-month contracts.

GRA's are expected to be available to work, depending on their award, any day that the university is open. This might include, but is not limited to, Interterm. Exact schedule is determined by faculty/staff supervisor and should be discussed prior to the student formally accepting the position.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A GTA/GRA?

There are University funded GTA positions that may be available each academic year and there are grant-funded GRA positions that become available as grants are secured by faculty within MCE. When positions are open, the PI or Supervisor will notify eligible students of openings.

- Job postings will be sent via email to all eligible students by the Academic Services Associates (ASA).
- When available, open GA positions will be posted on the MCE website - Financial Aid tab.
- Hiring decisions are made by the Supervisor/PI directly responsible for the position or grant.
- Job postings will include the required and preferred qualifications, and directions for how to apply.
- Most positions are open until filled and once filled, will be removed from the website.
- All inquiries should be directed to the hiring authority on the job posting for further details.

GTA/GRA CONTRACT

This section describes in detail some components of the Assistantship Contract that you will be required to sign once you are appointed to an assistantship position.

Definition: **GTA** is a general term that refers to Graduate Teaching Assistants. GTAs who are assigned to research or administrative duties are still considered GTAs for the purposes of the financial assistance policy.

GRAs are defined as those positions hired by the Principal Investigators to support sponsored research.

ELIGIBILITY

- A. GTA recipients must be enrolled in an academic program and be in good academic standing during the quarters in which they receive their award (programs/departments may stipulate that the recipient must be enrolled as a full-time student).
- B. International students who receive a GTA must demonstrate fluency in spoken English by scoring a 26 on the speaking section of the TOEFL, or an 8 on the speaking section of the IELTS and/or by passing the DU GTA English Language Proficiency Assessment (ELPA). International students whose native language is clearly English are exempt from the TSE.
- C. Should a GTA recipient wish to change his/her major field of study to another school/department, the award is NOT transferable to the new department.
- D. All GTA and GRA recipients must pass a background check and sign the Acknowledgement of Policies and Student Contract to complete the appointment process.
- E. To receive a full-time GTA, a student must be enrolled full-time (at least 8 credit hours per quarter). To receive half-time GTA, a student must be enrolled at least 4 credit hours per quarter. To receive quarter-time GTA, a student must be enrolled in at least 2 credit hours per quarter. Programs may stipulate that the recipient be enrolled as a full-time student to receive a half-time (or less) GTA position.
- F. A graduate student may not hold more than the equivalent of one full-time assistantship at any time within the University.
- G. Students cannot hold a GTA/GRA position and a work-study position simultaneously. However, within the same academic year a student may hold a GTA/GRA and a work-study position, just not during the same term.
- H. If a recipient's GTA is renewed for a subsequent academic year, a new Student Acknowledgement of GTA Policy form must be signed. A PhD student may remain in a GTA position for a maximum of 3 years or 9 quarters, an EdD, EdS or master's student a maximum of 2 years or 6 quarters.
- I. Students cannot be a GTA/GRA and enrolled in the same class they would be the graduate assistant for at the same time.
- J. GTA positions are awarded for up to one year at a time and must be reapplied to continue into the next academic year.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

In order to remain eligible to receive an assistantship, you must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress. The University of Denver measures Satisfactory Academic Progress by monitoring the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA), the Cumulative Completion Rate (CCR) and the Maximum Time Frame Limit (MTFL) to complete degree requirements. Graduate students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better. In order to graduate within the maximum time frame (MTF) limit, students must complete and pass a

minimum of 66.67% of all courses attempted. Successful completion of a course requires a grade of “C” or above. Students are required to complete all degree requirements within 150% of the minimum credits required to graduate. Ex: A student may attempt a maximum of 135 credits in order to complete a degree that requires 90 credits (90 credits x 150% = 135).

Students on academic probation or suspension are not eligible for a GTA/GRA position until that status is resolved. After two consecutive terms below 3.0 GPA a student is not eligible for a GTA/GRA position until the GPA is raised to a 3.0 or better.

FINANCIAL DETAILS

A. GTA and GRA positions receive both a tuition waiver and monthly stipend.

2015/16 MCE ASSISTANTSHIP AWARDS										
<u>GXA Appointment</u>	<u>Tuition Waiver Credits/Year</u>	<u>Tuition Waiver</u>	<u>MA/EdS/EdD Stipend</u>	<u>PhD Stipend</u>	<u>MA/EdS/EdD Annual Value</u>	<u>PhD Annual Value</u>	<u>Tuition Waiver Credits/Qtr</u>	<u>Tuition Waiver/Qtr</u>	<u>MA/EdS/EdD Stipend/Qtr</u>	<u>PhD Stipend/Qtr</u>
Full time	24	\$28,776	\$14,500	\$16,000	\$43,276	\$44,776	8	\$9,592	\$4,833	\$5,333
.50	12	\$14,388	\$7,250	\$8,000	\$21,638	\$22,388	4	\$4,796	\$2,417	\$2,667
.25	6	\$7,194	\$3,625	\$4,000	\$10,819	\$11,194	2	\$2,398	\$1,208	\$1,333

B. If you are receiving an MCE Dean’s Scholarship award and you receive a GTA or GRA, the Dean’s Scholarship award will be reduced by the amount of the assistantship tuition waiver. **EXAMPLE:** You have been awarded \$8,000 in Dean’s Scholarship and then you receive a 0.25 GTA position.

ORIGINAL AWARD		ADJUSTED FOR GTA	
Dean's Scholarship	\$8,000	Dean's Scholarship	\$ 806
GTA Waiver		GTA Waiver	\$ 7,194
GTA Stipend		GTA Stipend	\$ 3,625
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$8,000	TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 11,625

Dean's Scholarship reduced by amount of Assistantship tuition waiver

- C. Full-time GTAs are eligible for the GTA/GRA Health Insurance Scholarship which covers the cost of the University of Denver Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) and the Health & Counseling Fee (HCF). Eligibility is determined one time per year, in the fall and is managed by the Office of Graduate Studies. Further details can be found in the Graduate Policy Manual.
- D. The combination of all tuition waivers and scholarships cannot exceed tuition (prior to assessed fees). Waivers cannot be awarded in cash and will only be applied towards tuition.
- E. GTA tuition waivers awarded for the academic year are spread evenly over three quarters. If your degree program coursework progression plan requires it, contact MCE Financial Aid to have the waiver spread slightly uneven throughout the appointment period. However, waiver hours may not be substantially “front loaded” or borrowed from another term. Generally, no more than two credit hours may be moved between quarters.
- F. Stipends are paid once per month on the first of the month following your GTA appointment if all required Human Resources paperwork (I-9, W4, background check) has been completed and the

online hiring deadline is met. Your supervisor is responsible for notifying MCE Budget and Planning staff of GTA appointments. The GTA is responsible for completing the required documentation for the background check, I-9 and W4 documents and returning the signed contract by the deadline.

G. Stipend payment schedule:

Academic Term	Action Required of Units	Payroll System Automatically Pays
Fall	GXA positions hired online & all hiring paperwork complete by Sept 20 th	pays Oct 1st, Nov 1st, & Dec 1st
Winter	GXA positions hired online & all hiring paperwork complete by Dec 20 th	pays Jan 1st, Feb 1st, & Mar 1st
Spring	GXA positions hired online & all hiring paperwork complete by Mar 20 th	pays Apr 1st, May 1st, & Jun 1st
Summer	GXA positions hired online & all hiring paperwork complete by Jun 20 th	pays Jul 1st, Aug 1st, & Sep 1st

- H. If all necessary paperwork for your appointment is completed after the 20th of the first month of the academic term, your first payment will be delayed to the next month following completion of your paperwork. Ex: Your appointment paperwork is not completed until September 25th for the fall term. You will NOT receive a stipend payment on October 1st, but will receive your first stipend payment on November 1st.
- I. Since the fiscal year ends prior to the summer quarter, waivers cannot be carried forward from the spring to the summer quarter. There are very limited assistantship positions that have a summer start. You must be enrolled in at least 8 credit hours during the summer for these positions.
- J. Waiver hours may not be used for interterm courses, non-credit courses, any other fees or fines, including continuous enrollment, certification fees, dissertation hours alone or credits above program requirements.
- K. If the student drops courses for which his/her waiver hours have been used after or during the refund period, the waiver will not be re-awarded for future use.
- L. If a recipient of a GTA position is also eligible for University of Denver Employee waivers, he/she cannot have both the GTA position and the employee waiver within the same term.
- M. Waiver hours are not taxable income and cannot be used in lieu of stipends as an inducement for departmental or teaching duties.
- N. All stipend money received by a GTA is taxable income. Recipients must have a W-4 form on file with Payroll. The GTA must submit an I-9 form to Human Resources within three business days of hire, re-verify the I-9 when the GTA has been absent for more than one quarter, and resubmit the I-9 after three years.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

- *DRESS*
 - In general, graduate student workers come to work in attire that is suitable for the work setting. This may vary slightly from office to fieldwork and exposure to the community, clients, and child-care facilities:

- Data collection: Please dress one step above the place at which you are collecting data. For example, if you are going to a childcare and the staff wears jeans and T-shirts please wear khakis and a dressy tee, casual sweater, or casual blouse.
- Professional meeting: Please dress business casual or nicer.
- *WORK SCHEDULES*
 - GTAs and GRAs may be required to work any day that the University is open. GTAs work within the academic period that coincides with the award. GRAs may work during traditional academic break periods and work flows are guided according to the grant funding schedule. You will define your work schedule for each term with your Supervisor/PI. It is expected you will make prior arrangements with them if you will not be working your agreed upon schedule for emergencies or illness.
 - Punctuality is expected.
 - If you are ill or are going to be late, please email your Supervisor BEFORE your regularly scheduled time to work.
- *COMMUNICATION BY EMAIL*
 - Please use your DU student email. If you prefer correspondence on a different email, please have your email forwarded to your DU account.
- *DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL USE*
 - The use of illegal drugs or alcohol during work hours is not permitted and will not be tolerated. If a GTA/GRA is suspected to be under the influence of either while working, they may be asked to leave the work environment and may be subject to immediate dismissal. Marijuana use is not allowed during work hours and even if necessary for medical reasons, you should not be under the influence when you are working in your assistantship position.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Any matters of concern should be addressed with your Supervisor/PI. All attempts should be made to address issues of conflict in a mutually respectful and professional discussion with the Supervisor or PI. The following succession of conflict resolution steps assumes resolution was not reached at the previous stage.

- I. Identify and discuss concerns with Supervisor or PI.
- II. If there are still concerns after discussions with the Supervisor/PI, students should discuss the situation with their Faculty Advisor.
- III. The Faculty Advisor should provide the student with strategies and suggestions for approaching the Supervisor/PI and may offer to attend a meeting between the student and the Supervisor/PI.
- IV. If the matter has not been successfully resolved, the issue should be brought to the Department Chair.
- V. If there has not been successful resolution to the concern, the MCE Dean will be consulted.

JOB SPECIFIC RESOURCES

KATHERINE A. RUFFATO HALL

Building Hours:

	Public Building hours	Student swipe access
Mon - Fri	7 am - 8 pm	8-10 pm
Sat	8 am - 5 pm	6:30 am - 8 am and 5pm - 10 pm
Sun	12 pm - 5 pm	8 am - 12pm and 5pm - 10 pm

- Computer Lab hours: **M-TR** 8am-9pm, **F** 8am-8pm, **Sat** 8am-5pm. Closed on Sundays.
- The schedule can sometimes changes depending on university holidays/staff schedules. Signage will indicate changes
- Classroom Technology: each classroom has a manual with directions for utilizing technology.

TECH SUPPORT FOR MCE

- Phone: **(303) 871-3222** or mce.support@du.edu
- Full time tech support 7:30am – 5:00pm
- Lab monitors and minimal tech support 5:00pm – 9:00pm

COPY CODES AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

All building copiers require a passcode to make photo copies. Please obtain the program or grant-specific GTA/GRA copy code from your Supervisor/PI. Copy codes are to be used for job related copies only. Please no personal or school use. All office supplies will be obtained through your Supervisor/PI.

WORK LOCATIONS

Generally, GTAs and GRAs will share the common cubicle workspaces located throughout the second and third floors of Katherine Ruffato Hall. Some of the departmental works stations are assigned to specific grant funded projects and others are for general departmental usage. Scheduling for these work stations is coordinated by the Supervisors/Pis and Department Chairs. Some administrative GTAs may be working in department offices.

COMPUTER LOGIN INFO

- I. Active Directory account must be requested by your Supervisor/PI.
- II. Request goes to DU University Technology Services (UTS) department (NOT MCE Tech Team) through [UTS Service Now system](#)
- III. Active Directory Request to: https://univofdenver.service-now.com/techservices_login.do
- IV. Once set up, send request to MCE Tech Team (mce.support@du.edu) to have profile loaded onto computer and printing capabilities set up.

OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES RESOURCES

[Office of Graduate Studies](#) at DU and refer to the [Graduate Policy Manual](#) or the [Graduate Teaching Assistant Handbook](#) for additional resources.

MCE ALL STAFF & FACULTY [DIRECTORY](#)

NOTES
