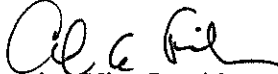





Karen Butler-Purry, Ph.D., P.E.  
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Studies

December 2, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Dr. Carol Fierke   
Provost and Executive Vice President

**FROM:** Karen Butler-Purry 

**SUBJECT:** FY21 Tuition and Fees Payment changes for PhD students employed in graduate assistant positions

Since the major changes to the tuition payment mandate in FY12, faculty and graduate students have stressed the importance of providing support for payment of required fees for PhD students in graduate assistant positions. Following months of discussions with groups such as the Graduate Operations Committee, University Research Council, and the executive committees of the Faculty Senate and Council of Principal Investigators, I am pleased to recommend adoption of the attached mandate and guidelines effective FY21 for expansion of the current tuition payment mandate and guidelines for PhD students employed in graduate assistant positions. This increase in PhD graduate assistant support further advances the university's efforts to support PhD students fully and enhance graduate education and research by attracting the best graduate students.

cc: Council of Deans, GOC Deans, ABOC Deans, Vice President for Research

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December 2, 2019

**Changes to Mandate and Guidelines for Payment of Tuition and Fees  
for Texas A&M PhD Graduate Assistants  
Effective Fall 2020 (FY21)**

**Background:**

Since the major changes to the tuition payment mandate in January 2011, faculty and graduate students have stressed the importance of adding a mandate for payment of required fees for PhD graduate assistants. In FY20, the university allocated approximately \$2.5 million dollars in one time transition funds and \$4 million in base funds to pay fees for PhD graduate assistants who support the teaching mission of the university. With the newly allocated funds, other internal funds, and externally funded research grants, the university is able to increase the minimum support for PhD GATs, GARs, and GALs. Effective FY21, the tuition and fees mandate requires the payment of resident tuition and required university and college fees, to advance the university's efforts to fully support PhD students and attract the best graduate students to advance graduate education and research.

**Mandate: Payment of Tuition and University Required Fees for PhD students in Graduate Assistant Teaching (GAT), Graduate Assistant Lecturer (GAL), and Graduate Assistant Research (GAR) positions. This mandate applies for all Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University at Galveston PhD students employed in GAT, GAL, and GAR positions sourced from any account or award of Texas A&M University or Texas A&M agency.**

1. For PhD students admitted without a master's degree and initial PhD enrollment between Fall 2016 to Spring 2020; or PhD students admitted with a master's degree and initial PhD enrollment between Fall 2017 to Spring 2020:
  - a. Resident Tuition, Required University Fees, and Required College Fees for PhD GATs, GARs, and GALs starting in the above time frame will be paid at least through their 5th year of study -  
- for students admitted without a master's degree; and at least through their 4th year of study --  
for students admitted with a master's degree.
2. For PhD students initially enrolled in Summer/Fall 2020 and beyond:
  - a. Resident Tuition, Required University Fees, and Required College Fees for PhD GATs, GARs, and GALs starting in the above time frame will be paid at least through their 5th year of study -  
- for students admitted without a master's degree; and at least through their 4th year of study --  
for students admitted with a master's degree.
3. Payment of tuition and required fees for PhD GANTs is optional.

***Texas A&M University Colleges with PhD Programs***

***[Agriculture & Life Sciences, Architecture, Mays Business School, Education & Human Development, Engineering, Geosciences, Liberal Arts, Science, Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences]***

**Definitions:** (i) Required University Fees -- University Advancement Fee, Health Center, Student Center Complex, and Student Recreation Center. (ii) Required College Fees: College Advancement Fees (for all colleges except Engineering and the Biological and Agricultural Engineering [BAEN] program), and Program Fees (for College of Architecture, College of Engineering, and BAEN program).

***Texas A&M University Health Science Center Colleges with PhD Programs***

***[Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, School of Public Health]***

**Definitions:** (i) Required University Fees -- University Advancement Fee, Health Center, Student Center Complex, Student Recreation Center, and Transportation. (ii) Required College Fees: Program Fees (School of Public Health); and Instructional Enhancement and Medical Liability Fees (College of Dentistry).

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*Texas A&M University at Galveston*

**Definitions:** (i) Required University Fees -- University Advancement Fee, Student Center Complex, and Student Recreation Center. (ii) Required College Fees: None.

*Note: This document reflects the required university and college fees applicable in the 2019-20 academic year. Any new required university or college fees added after this academic year will be included in the mandate.*

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**Guidelines for Payment of Tuition and Required Fees for PhD students employed as GATs, GALs, and GARs during mandatory years**

***Payment of Tuition – Who Pays:***

*Note: When a PhD GAT/GAR/GAL salary is funded from different sources, the tuition payment will be paid proportional to percent work effort charged to each source, except in cases where the funding source does not allow the payment of tuition.*

1. PhD GATs and GALs -- adloc'd to academic departments
  - a. Resident tuition for PhD GATs and GALs adloc'd to academic departments will be paid from the tuition and fees pool funds allocated to each college.
2. PhD GARs -- state-funded [TAMU E&G and Designated Tuition(DT)]
  - a. For FY21-FY22, resident tuition for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from transition pool funds allocated to each college or other college/department funds. These funds will be computed based on the number of state funded (TAMU E&G and DT) PhD GARs in the 2018 calendar year.
  - b. For FY23 and beyond, resident tuition for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from Graduate Strategic (GS) pool funds allocated to each college and/or other college/departmental funds.
  - c. Data will be reviewed each year to identify any major consequences from this transition and used to make adjustments, if necessary.
3. PhD GARs -- externally funded grants and contracts, where the granting agency permits payment of all or a portion of tuition
  - a. Resident tuition for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from those grants and contracts.
4. PhD GARs -- externally funded grants and contracts, where the granting agency does not permit payment of tuition
  - a. Resident tuition for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from other sources. These sources may include Graduate Strategic (GS) pool funds allocated to each college, college funds, departmental funds, IDC funds, or agency funds.

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*Payment of Required Fees – Who Pays:*

*Note: When a PhD GAT/GAR/GAL salary is funded from different sources, the fees payment will be paid proportional to percent work effort charged to each source, except in cases where the funding source does not allow the payment of fees.*

1. PhD GATs and GALs -- adloc'd to academic departments
  - a. Required University Fees for PhD GATs and GALs adloc'd to academic departments will be paid from the tuition and fees pool funds allocated to each college.
  - b. College Fees for PhD GATs and GALs will be paid from college/department funds.
2. PhD GARs -- State-funded (TAMU E&G and DT)
  - a. For FY21-FY22, Required University Fees for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from transition funds allocated to each college or other college/department funds. These transition funds will be computed based on the number of state funded (TAMU E&G and DT) PhD GARs in the 2018 calendar year.
  - b. For FY23 and beyond, Required University Fees for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from Graduate Strategic (GS) pool funds allocated to each college and/or other college/departmental funds.
  - c. College Fees for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from college/department funds.
  - d. Data will be reviewed each year to identify any major consequences and used to make adjustments, if necessary.
3. PhD GARs -- Externally funded grants and contracts, where the granting agency permits payment of required fees
  - a. Required University Fees for PhD GARs in this category who are funded by external grants and contracts proposals submitted after January 1, 2020 will be paid from those grants and contracts.
  - b. College Fees for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from those grants and contracts.
  - c. Limited bridge funds will be available in FY21 and FY22 to assist with payment of required university fees for PhD GARs in this category who are funded by external grants and contracts proposals submitted before January 1, 2020 which did not include funds to cover university required fees for funded PhD GARs.
4. PhD GARs -- Externally funded grants and contracts, where the granting agency does not permit payment of required fees
  - a. Required University Fees for PhD GARs in this category who are funded by external grants and contracts proposals submitted after January 1, 2020 will be paid from other sources. These sources may include Graduate Strategic (GS) pool funds allocated to each college, college funds, departmental funds, IDC funds, or agency funds.
  - b. College Fees for PhD GARs in this category will be paid from college and/or department funds.
  - c. Limited bridge funds will be available in FY21 and FY22 to assist with payment of required university fees for PhD GARs in this category who are funded by external grants and contracts proposals submitted before January 1, 2020.