

SOM Graduate Research Assistants on Research Grants

(e.g., R01's, R21's)

The following information applies to all School of Medicine graduate students in the following PhD programs: Behavioral Neuroscience, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Cell & Developmental Biology, Integrative Biomedical Sciences, Molecular & Medical Genetics, Molecular Microbiology & Immunology, Neuroscience, Physiology & Pharmacology, and the Program in Molecular & Cellular Biosciences.

STIPENDS:

- Stipends are paid to these students while they are registered for a full-time course load (minimum 9 hours of 600-level courses) and engaged in research training. Stipends are not paid during leaves of absence. Effective July 1, 2008 all *new* students will receive a \$24,500 stipend – that is also the lowest stipend that can be paid to advanced students. Advanced students may receive a stipend as high as \$26,000, as long as this is consistent with the internal policy established by each Ph.D. program. [Of course no GRA stipend can be more than the 0-level postdoctoral NRSA stipend in effect at the time the grant award is issued.]
- In a Research Grants where a GRA is listed in personnel, the 'salary' requested for the GRA is actually the stipend (not a payroll salary). In the application's budget justification it *must* be stated that the requested 'salary' is really a stipend.
- Please refer to the following link for the full stipend policy established 1/1/08 by the Graduate Council:
<http://ozone.ohsu.edu/som/faculty/gradstipend.shtml>

TUITION:

- PIs are encouraged to request funds for the partial tuition and fees for each GRA on a research grant. The tuition waiver for the above departments sets the GRA tuition at \$2,000 beginning July 1, 2008. There is a strong likelihood that the partial tuition for GRA's will increase by \$1,000 a year up to a maximum of \$5,000. Therefore, *on multiple-year grants it is best to increase the tuition \$1K a year, up to \$5K.*
- [Please note that for pre-doctoral trainees on institutional training grants, or for pre-doctoral students applying for an individual fellowship grant (e.g., NRSA grants), the *full tuition is always requested* in the proposal, not the partial tuition shown here for GRA's on research grants!]

FEES:

- The fees associated with tuition are requested *in full* for each GRA. Tuition fees include following fees: building fee, incidental fee, student activity fee, resource fee and the health service fee. *Raise the fees by 3% each subsequent grant year* (though this may not actually cover the real increase for the next academic year it is the best estimate possible).
- [Be assured that even when including these tuition fees, the health insurance (see below), and the partial tuition in a research grant budget, a GRA will still 'cost' less than a lab assistant earning \$25,000/year salary with the added 45% fringe benefit rate.]

INSURANCE:

- Insurance costs are treated like fringe benefits on a research grant budget. They include vision insurance, dental insurance, and the major medical fee. These are raised by 3% in the first year's grant budget; each subsequent year is also increased by 3% to at least partially account for inflation.
- Refer to the online tuition/fees chart for the actual fees and insurance costs (*ignore the tuition costs and use the partial tuition amount noted above instead*): <http://www.ohsu.edu/registrar/fees2007-08final.htm>