SOM GRADUATE STUDENT STIPEND POLICY
FY’18: 1 July 2017 - 30 June 2018

"The stipends provided to students offset the cost-of-living during the period of training and are not considered equivalent to salaries or other forms of compensation provided to individuals supported on research grants." NIH

The purpose of this document is to establish a stipend policy to ensure consistency and fairness in the treatment of all PhD students within SoM PhD programs. Funds from external or internal sources may not be used to exceed the Graduate Council maximum for these students.

1. A monthly stipend will be paid to all School of Medicine graduate students in the following Ph.D. programs: Behavioral Neuroscience, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Biomedical Computer Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Cancer Biology, Cell & Developmental Biology, Electrical Engineering, Environmental & Biomolecular Systems, Medical Physics, Molecular & Medical Genetics, Molecular Microbiology & Immunology, Neuroscience, Physiology & Pharmacology, and Program in Molecular & Cellular Biosciences.

2. Stipends will be paid while students are registered for a full-time course load (minimum 9 hours of 600-level courses) and actively engaged in research training. Stipends will not be paid during leaves of absence.

3. The School of Medicine Graduate Council is responsible for setting the stipend level each fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). All stipend recommendations are subject to final approval by the Dean of the School of Medicine.

4. The stipend to be paid to first-year PhD students in all programs will be $29,000.

5. Stipends will increase to $29,500 for students that have been in the program, full time, for a minimum of 4 terms, are in good academic standing and have a cumulative GPA not less than 3.0. This increase will be effective on 1 October of the start of fall term of their second year (or in the first month after a student is removed from academic probation).

6. Once a student has passed their qualifying exam and has advanced to candidacy, their stipend will increase to $30,000, beginning the month after their exam result is recorded in the School of Medicine. Note, no minimum time in the program is required, but students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

7. Students who are awarded a stipend from a competitive individual fellowship (e.g. NSF, NIH) that exceeds the Graduate Council minimum will be allowed to receive that stipend. However, this stipend must completely replace stipend funds from other sources.

8. Students who receive financial awards in addition to stipends (e.g. ARCS) may keep these in addition to their stipend.

9. Students who are awarded an individual fellowship stipend that falls below the Graduate Council minimum shall receive additional stipend support from either the mentor, the mentor’s primary administrative unit (as defined by the OHSU unit credited for indirect cost earnings), or the Graduate Program such that the total stipend meets the amount set by Graduate Council.
10. The stipend specified by the Graduate Council is exclusive of fees and tuition. Mentors or graduate programs must pay for any portion of tuition that is not waived and all fees for full-time Ph.D. students.

11. Mentors are ordinarily expected to take primary responsibility for providing funds needed for stipends, fees and any portion of the tuition that is not waived. When the mentor is unable to provide such funds (e.g., due to a temporary lapse in grant support), the mentor's primary administrative unit is expected to assist the mentor by providing bridge funds. If the mentor's primary administrative unit is unable to provide sufficient funds, the program director will notify the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies who will strive to provide assistance in such situations.

12. Program Directors are ordinarily expected to take primary responsibility to arrange that a student's stipend, fees, and tuition are paid whenever an advanced student leaves the laboratory of one mentor to begin training with a different mentor. If a student leaves the first lab before a new mentor has been identified, the graduate program will assume primary responsibility for paying the student's stipend, fees, and tuition during the transition. If it appears that Graduate Program funds are insufficient to provide support during the transition, the program director will notify the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies who will strive to assist in such situations.

13. The School of Medicine Office of Graduate Studies will have responsibility for reviewing and approving paperwork related to payment of graduate stipends. However, department chairs, program directors, and program administrators are expected to monitor stipend levels within their programs and aid in enforcement of this policy.

14. The Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and the student's program director must approve any exceptions to this policy.

15. The Graduate Council will review this policy annually. Policy changes must be approved by the Graduate Council, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, and Dean of the School of Medicine.

16. This policy replaces previous stipend policies. It will go into effect upon approval by the Graduate Council, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, and Dean of the School of Medicine.

17. This document was originally approved by the Graduate Council on January 8, 2008. The latest administrative update was completed on 06 June 2017.

Approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies
Allison D. Fryer, Ph.D.  Date  6/13/17

Approved by the Senior Associate dean of Education School of Medicine
George Mejicano, M.D.  Date  6/13/17