

2026-2027 Graduate Assistant Classification Levels & Salary Ranges

Graduate Assistant Classification Levels & Salary Ranges (GA, GRA, GTA, GAW)
Individual programs may set specific wage schedules for their operations. Programs should consider the student's level (master's or doctoral), complexity of the graduate assistant work, and the knowledge required to perform a job when determining wage rates for graduate assistant positions. In addition, supervisors should consider the issue of pay equity with current student incumbents. Graduate assistants must be paid at least minimum wage and be enrolled in graduate studies.

The ranges below are based on a 9-month appointment with an FTE of .50 (20 hours per week).

Graduate Assistant Classification Levels	Salary Range
Graduate Assistant I – Generally, students at the masters' level meet this level of classification. Students perform work requiring a combination of basic skills and some experience. Work is guided by applicable work principles and standardized techniques.	\$9,977 - \$13,648
Graduate Assistant II – Students at the masters' or doctoral level meet this level of classification. Students perform work requiring training that is more specialized, which usually requires experience and/or being on the job. Minimal level of supervision received. Work is analytical, technical and based on acquired skills.	\$11,868 - \$14,798
Graduate Assistant III – Generally, students at the doctoral or terminal degree level only meet this classification. Students perform specialized duties such as student researchers requiring specialized training and may require significant experience. Students work with greater independence than lower-level positions and receive a minimal level of supervision. Students may act as lead to other student employees. These are considered specialized student positions.	\$12,165 – \$17,023

The ranges below are based on a summer 3-month appointment at .50 FTE.

Graduate Assistant Classification Levels	Salary Range
Graduate Assistant I – Generally, students at the masters' level meet this level of classification. Students perform work requiring a combination of basic skills and some experience. Work is guided by applicable work principles and standardized techniques.	\$3,326 – \$4,549
Graduate Assistant II – Students at the masters' or doctoral level meet this level of classification. Students perform work requiring training that is more specialized, which usually requires experience and/or being on the job. Minimal level of supervision received. Work is analytical, technical and based on acquired skills.	\$3,956 – \$4,933
Graduate Assistant III – Generally, students at the doctoral or terminal degree level only meet this classification. Students perform specialized duties such as student researchers requiring specialized training and may require significant experience. Students work with greater independence than lower-level positions and receive a minimal level of supervision. Students may act as lead to other student employees. These are considered specialized student positions.	\$4,055 – \$5,674