Policy on Summer Graduate Tuition

January 2012

Background

Policy prior to 2011 required that graduate students who are on assistantship be considered full-time students and pay the associated tuition and fees, including during summer session. An attempt was made to revise and simplify this policy for summer 2011, and for a variety of reasons the solution developed for summer 2011 was unsatisfactory. This document describes the elements of the policy for summer graduate registration that is effective for summer 2012.

The intent of the new policy is to allow graduate students to hold assistantships during the summer if they register and are assessed tuition and fees for a minimum of two credits, and that tuition would be assessed to graduate students in the summer according to their actual enrollment in credit courses, for research credit, for the minimum allowable two credits, or because they will complete their degree requirements during the summer of appointment.

It is likely that the Programs of Study (POS) for some graduate students will need to be revised to reflect a reduction in expected research credits during the summer as appropriate to the individual student and their research activities.

The following are elements of the policy on summer graduate tuition and fees.

- Graduate students who are appointed on assistantships in the summer will be assessed tuition and fees for a minimum of two credits.
- Graduate assistants will be exempt from FICA.
- Graduate students who register for credit courses in the summer, for research credits in the summer, or who will complete graduation requirements during the summer of appointment shall be assessed tuition and fees according to the credits taken or as required during their final term of graduate study (if applicable).
- Graduate students on assistantship appointments during the summer will receive tuition scholarships commensurate with their graduate status.
- After the anticipated implementation of candidacy status tuition, if and when that occurs, graduate students in candidacy status will be assessed tuition and fees during summer as specified by to-be-developed candidacy status tuition policies.
- Except in unusual circumstances, graduate students will not be employed on an hourly basis during the summer.
- As is always the case, graduate assistant appointments are expected to be related to the graduate student’s major, program of study, and career objectives.