

Montana Technological University Policy

Subject:

Academic Affairs

Policy:

Modification to TARA policy

Revised:

November 30, 2021

Effective date:

Fall Semester 2022

Review date:

August 2025

Responsible Party:

Finance and Administration; Graduate School

Introduction and Purpose:

This policy modifies the TARA waiver to apply to Graduate Teaching Assistants only. Graduate Research Assistants are removed from eligibility for non-resident TARA waivers, and GRAs will be charged the full cost of tuition. To avoid any disruption of funding status for current students, a new fellowship opportunity will be established, with preference given to existing students that are making satisfactory progress toward degree, yet face a change or disruption in funding status.

The policy further clarifies the distinction and eligibility for TARA (non-resident) and resident tuition waivers.

Policy:

In accordance with BOR policy 940.41, the Montana Tech Graduate Student Tuition Policy sets tuition for graduate students who are Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTA) receiving GTA support of at least \$4,000 per semester at the resident tuition level. Thus, GTAs who are not Montana residents are awarded a TARA waiver equal to the difference between resident and non-resident tuition. The TARA waiver is limited to four semesters for a master's student.

Procedures:

Assignment of a student as a GTA is made to an individual student by the Department on a semester-by-semester basis, based upon the following criteria:

- Availability of funds
- Satisfactory progress toward the degree
- Maintaining a 3.0 Grade Point Average
- Continued registration for at least 6 credits at the 400-500 level for the duration of the award. (Enrollment in fewer credits during the final semester is acceptable, if the student is taking all the credits needed to complete the degree. This enrollment exemption is applicable to one semester only.)

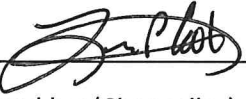
GTAs that receive a stipend of at least \$4,000 are eligible for TARA waivers (non-resident portion of the tuition), provided the above criteria are met. After GTA assignment by the department, the TARA waiver is implemented by Enrollment Services. The TARA waiver will be reviewed by Enrollment Services, in consultation with the Business Office, to ensure continued eligibility for the award.

Beyond the TARA waiver, GTAs receiving a stipend of at least \$4,000 are also eligible for a resident tuition waiver, provided the above criteria are met. The resident tuition waiver is subject to departmental assignment, and availability of funds. The Graduate Dean will allocate funds for tuition waivers to departments at least one month prior to the start of a semester, subject to the University-wide budget and with review of teaching needs and strategic investment of the GTA funds. The implementation of the resident tuition waiver is made by Enrollment Services (in consultation with the Graduate School, the Business Office, and the Departments) at least one month prior to a semester.

Internal control considerations, if applicable:

This policy is consistent with the Board of Regent policy 940.31, which grants campuses the flexibility to set non-resident tuition rates for graduate research and teaching assistants.

Tuition for GRAs supported by federal grants must be charged at the lowest rate. Thus, GRAs supported on internal funds (e.g., IDC, development funds, etc.) must not receive tuition waivers that are not available for federally-funded students on comparable appointments. To avoid disruption when this policy is enacted for students and faculty that are relying on GRAs originating from internal funds, a portion of the University-wide GTA/waiver budget that is administered by the graduate school will be allocated for competitive fellowships that may be applied toward tuition. This fellowship opportunity will be available to all students, competitively awarded, and [in later years] used for graduate recruiting. In all years, preference will be given to any existing student that is making satisfactory progress toward degree, yet faces a change or disruption in funding status. This fellowship program will also be used to facilitate support of GRAs on externally-funded projects that do not allow tuition charges.



Adopted by: (Chancellor)

1/26/2022
Date