Research Enhancement Program

Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) Program Guidelines

The purpose of the Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) Program is to provide support for graduate students working toward research-based theses (or equivalent) and dissertations.

GRA funds are subsidized by the University’s Research Enhancement Program and administered in accordance with the fiscal year (Sep 1 – Aug 31). The URC makes recommendations for funding to the chair of the council who then obtains approval for funding from the dean of the Graduate School, and notifies the provost and vice president of academic affairs of awards.

Publications resulting from a GRA award shall acknowledge that the project was “Conducted with support from the Stephen F. Austin State University Research Enhancement Program.”

| Graduate Research Salary (GRS) | Award limit: $12,546/year  
Allowable costs:  
- Salary @ $1,025/month plus benefits at 2%  
Deadline: April 15, 2016 |
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GRS grants provide support to assist students who have graduate research assistantship appointments and are actively working on a thesis or dissertation. The deadline for GRS grant applications is in the spring for funding the following academic year. The URC and graduate dean review all GRS proposals and award up to two (2) awards per year.

Eligibility - Members of the graduate faculty serving as faculty advisors may apply for GRS support on behalf of their students. Awardees must be working toward a research-based thesis/dissertation or equivalent degree. Non-thesis graduate students are not eligible.

Specific Requirements
- Awards must be used to release students from teaching responsibilities.
- Successful GRS grants must be tied to a specific research objective.
- Graduate Research Assistantships can be up to twelve (12) months.
- Faculty sponsors can apply for a second 12-month assistantship for a student, but assistantships may not exceed a total of 24 months per student.
- For continued funding, evidence must be submitted by the faculty sponsor to the URC each semester of the award to demonstrate student progress.

| Graduate Research Project (GRP) | Award limit: $1,000/year  
Allowable costs:  
- Travel to collect data  
- Supplies and materials  
Deadlines: TBD fall and spring |
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GRP grants provide support of up to $1,000 ($500/semester) to assist students who have graduate research assistantship appointments and are actively working on a thesis or dissertation. The deadlines for GRP grant applications are in the fall and spring semesters. The URC and graduate dean review all GRP proposals and award up to 20 (twenty) $500 awards per year.

Eligibility - Graduate Research Assistants in good standing may apply for GRP support directly related to a research-based thesis/dissertation or equivalent degree. Non-thesis graduate students are not eligible.

Specific Requirements
- Successful GRP grants must be tied to a specific research objective.
- Requests should be confined to activities or equipment that are central to the student’s research and are not available to the applicant through the department. Documentation is required that these funds supplement, not supplant, departmental resources for graduate research.
- Recipients must complete a one-page report summarizing how the funds directly benefited their research.