GRADUATE STUDENT APPOINTEE INFORMATION: 2016-17

Service Requirement: The kinds of service required of graduate appointees vary among departments, each of which determines its own range of appropriate responsibilities subject to administrative review. The number of hours of service required per week is stated in the appointment letter and ranges from 20 for a full appointment to 10 for a half appointment. Assigned activities shall be relevant professional experiences. Graduate appointees can expect professional guidance and timely evaluation in the performance of their duties from their department supervisor.

Failure to fulfill any of the conditions listed in the letter of appointment shall result in the termination and/or adjustment (pro-rated in proportion to/adjusted relative to conditions satisfactorily completed) of the appointment award, including termination and/or adjustment of any University payment of credit towards salary, tuition award, fees, or other expenses (collectively: funds). The University also reserves the right to evaluate the circumstances involved for failure to fulfill the required conditions and to require repayment of any funds.

Notification and Verification of Status: At the time of appointment, graduate appointees shall be informed in writing of the specific conditions of the appointment by the department or unit funding the award. This notification shall include the amount of the award and any tuition award, details of the work assignment, the time period of the appointment, and any other conditions particular to an individual appointment. The appointee’s signature on the letter of appointment constitutes agreement to the appointment’s terms.

Eligibility Requirement: To be eligible to hold any type of graduate appointment, students must have regular admission status in a graduate degree program, remain in good academic standing, and meet the enrollment requirement for the term of appointment (see below). Appointments that do not meet these requirements will be cancelled by the Graduate College.

Enrollment Requirement: The minimum enrollment requirement for assistantships, associateships, and Thurgood Marshall fellowships each semester is six graduate credit hours. In a session, three graduate credit hours are required regardless of type of appointment. Individual departments may require an enrollment of more than the minimum number of credit hours. Appointees must be registered in semesters and terms during which they receive financial support.

Under Enrollment: All appointees are required to be enrolled full time (6 hours/semester; 3 hours/session) unless granted approval by the Graduate College. All requests for under enrollment by graduate appointees must be approved by submitting the Permission for Under Enrollment form http://wmich.edu/grad/files/forms/permission-under-enroll.pdf to the Graduate College prior to the end of drops/adds. Email the completed form to grad-awards@wmich.edu.

Enrollment Fee: Students registered for five or more credits in a semester (four or more credits in a session) are assessed, as part of the enrollment fee, student health center and recreation center fees that allow access to health center services and recreation center facilities. Students enrolled for four or fewer credits in a semester (three or fewer credits in a session) are assessed a reduced enrollment fee and may pay an additional fee to enable them to have either health center access or recreation center privileges.

Student Email Account: All WMU students receive a University email account at the time of creation of a Bronco Net ID. The University frequently communicates with students via email. In the case of graduate appointees, important information regarding required training, financial aid and other matters will be sent to students’ email accounts. Appointees should begin checking their account for this information on a regular basis even before their appointment begins.

SAVE THE DATE! – Wednesday, August 31, 2016

Graduate Appointee Training: ALL new graduate assistants and doctoral associates on an appointment for the first time or have accepted a teaching appointment for the first time, are required to attend the University-wide Graduate Appointee Training Workshop that is presented by the Graduate College the week before the fall term begins. For 2016-17, graduate appointee training is scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2016. All newly arrived international graduate appointees must attend an additional week of training and orientation in addition to the university-wide workshop. Departments will notify graduate appointees about additional department training, if applicable. Students will be contacted by email with more information about training times and registration.
Tax Implications: Detailed records of all your educational expenses (e.g., tuition, fees, books, and related expenses) and check stubs from any payment you receive from the University should be kept for tax purposes. For detailed information, you should review IRS publication 970, “Tax Benefits for Education.” If you are an international student your salary may be eligible for exemption from taxation; international tax treaty information specific to WMU is posted at [http://wmich.edu/payroll/payroll/mypay/international-employees](http://wmich.edu/payroll/payroll/mypay/international-employees). You should also review IRS publication 519, “U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens,” for further clarification. All IRS publications are available on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/formspubs/ or by phone at (800) 829-1040.

Privileges and benefits available to graduate appointees:

Tuition Award: Graduate appointees shall, at the discretion of the University, be granted a full or partial tuition award depending on their degree level and type of appointment. Any such tuition to be awarded will be described in the appointment letter. Students who are granted a tuition award and subsequently withdraw from a class after the refund period and/or resign from the appointment will be required to repay the tuition that was granted as a benefit of the appointment.

The tuition award is applicable only toward registered and completed credit hours in your graduate program and will pay only actual tuition charges at the main campus rates. The tuition award will pay for undergraduate, or Extended University Programs [off-campus or online] courses with approval from the Graduate College. Request approval from the Graduate College by submitting either of the following forms before the end of drops/adds to grad-awards@wmich.edu.

The forms can be found at: [http://wmich.edu/grad/files/forms/3000-4000-inclusion.pdf](http://wmich.edu/grad/files/forms/3000-4000-inclusion.pdf) or [http://wmich.edu/grad/files/forms/permission-eup-online.pdf](http://wmich.edu/grad/files/forms/permission-eup-online.pdf)

Your tuition award amount will be credited to your student account. Any overpayment or underpayment due to a change in your enrollment will be corrected after the end of the drop/add period through an adjustment to your student account. Any unused tuition award is forfeited and cannot be paid to the student or carried forward to another term. Payment of any remaining tuition expenses and fees is the responsibility of the student. If you are the recipient of other tuition support (employer-paid, veteran’s benefits, foreign sponsorship, etc.) your University tuition award may be adjusted as a result. Under no circumstances will an appointee receive a cash refund of paid tuition.

Tuition Payment Deferment: Appointees may enroll in the University installment payment plan, please review at [http://gowmu.wmich.edu](http://gowmu.wmich.edu). Select the Payment and Account Information link, next the Payment Plan tab. There is a $35 fee for this service that is charged at the time of enrollment. Once your graduate assistantship award pays to your student account, the $35 enrollment fee will be credited back to your student account. Delinquent accounts are subject to all University collection procedures, including referral to an external collection agency. Service fees may begin being charged as early as 30 days after the start of each term and a hold placed from future registrations until the student account is paid in full.

Paychecks: The University issues payroll checks on a bi-weekly basis on alternate Tuesdays. A pay schedule can be found at [http://cms.wmich.edu/payroll/payroll/pay-schedule](http://cms.wmich.edu/payroll/payroll/pay-schedule). All employees must enroll in direct deposit or they will receive a Visa® payroll card.

Appointment Validation: Upon verification of appointee status, the appointee will become eligible to receive certain privileges from Parking Services, WMU Bookstore, and the University Libraries. Appointees with academic year (both Fall and Spring) appointments may continue to have access to certain privileges (e.g., library borrowing privileges) during the summer sessions if they pre-enroll for the upcoming Fall semester.

Parking: Graduate appointees are exempt from paying the $300 vehicle registration fee but must register their vehicle with Parking Services and present their letter of appointment. Appointees with a teaching classification shall have the option of a graduate hang tag (good for the entire academic year) or temporary sticker parking permit. Appointees with a non-teaching classification shall be given a temporary sticker parking permit, and do not have the option of a hang tag. The temporary sticker parking permit is valid for one semester only. A new temporary sticker parking permit must be obtained from Parking Services each semester on appointment, if needed.

Bookstore: In the term(s) they hold an appointment, graduate appointees shall receive a 10% discount at the WMU Bookstore in the Bernhard Center on books and supplies (excluding class rings and sale items) purchased for personal use. To receive this discount, appointees must identify their status as graduate appointees at the service desk before purchases are made.

Library: Appointees will receive certain privileges at the University Libraries when they identify their status as graduate appointees before checkout. The borrowing period for graduate appointees is one semester. Appointees may borrow up to 50 items, and are exempt from ordinary overdue fines. The exemption does not include fines for overdue recalled items, or replacement and processing charges for lost items. Details are available at the library circulation desk.

Facilities: Graduate appointees will be accorded the use of University facilities (e.g., offices, research facilities, etc.) authorized by the director of the facilities on the same basis as faculty. This does not include the West Hills Athletic Club.

It is your responsibility to report any errors in your compensation to your department office. In the event of an underpayment, a correction will be made to provide you with the amount due. In the event of an overpayment, your University account will be debited in the amount of the overpayment or a payroll adjustment will be made.