Subject
Graduate Assistantship Appointments for Research Purposes

Date of Last Review
October 2012

Purpose
The purpose of this Operating Policy (OP) is to provide recommendations for Graduate Student Assistantship appointments for research purposes.

Review
The Associate Dean for Research in the College of Human Sciences (COHS) along with members of the COHS Research Committee will review this OP in alternate years starting from the date above.

Policy
Whenever possible all large grant proposals should include graduate students appointed to Research Assistantship (RA) positions on a full-time basis, which consists of 20 hours per week, making the student eligible for tuition waivers and fringe benefits during the project period.

However, for research proposals that involve smaller funding levels, faculty may consider employing graduate students on an hourly basis with less than full-time status (i.e., less than 20 hours per week). Such part-time hourly appointments are not eligible for tuition waivers or fringe benefit costs, thus avoiding exhausting the entire grant budget on RA costs alone.

Note that if the principal investigator adopts the later part-time RA strategy, they will need to provide a written statement signed by the department chair to the Texas Tech Office of Research Services indicating that:

*If the PI/Department opts for an hourly supported RA (i.e., less than 20/hours per week), the PI/Department understands that if the graduate student employee(s) appointment evolves into a full-time (20 hr) assistantship during the course of the project, the PI/Department will be responsible for payment of tuition waivers and all associated fringe benefit costs.*