

There are a limited number of Graduate Assistantships available. To be eligible for an assistantship, a student must be fully matriculated (no deficiencies) and in good academic standing ($GPA \geq 3.0$). Full matriculation is granted to applicants who have completed all required prerequisite courses and received their baccalaureate with an overall GPA of 2.8 or higher, and a GPA in Biology of 3.0 or better.

To be eligible for an assistantship in the first semester, the application must be submitted by April 15th if entering in the fall semester, and October 15th for students entering in the spring semester. Students must indicate their interest in an assistantship on the application for graduate study. Students who receive an assistantship are expected to be available to work during the day. The specific assignment will be made by the Graduate Coordinator, and normally consists of 20-30 hours/week in any of the following duties:

- 1) Tutoring of undergraduates.
- 2) Proctoring of exams as requested by the Graduate Coordinator or supervising faculty member.
- 3) Conducting office hours in the Biology Computer Room.

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Assistant to work out the details of the assignment(s) with the supervising faculty member involved, normally during the first week of classes.

The Graduate Committee will evaluate the performance of each Graduate Assistant once each year, based upon input from the faculty member(s) directing the service to the Department and from the Thesis Advisor. The student will then be notified of:

- a) marginal or deficient performance and recommendation of "provisional standing" (The student must achieve satisfactory performance during the following semester or have his/her Assistantship revoked).
- b) unsatisfactory performance warranting immediate termination of the Assistantship.

Students receiving full time Graduate Assistantships are normally expected to take three courses (9 credits) per semester, and should plan to complete all requirements for their

degree by the end of their second year. Half time assistantships pay for up to 6 credits of work. Students are limited to 4 semesters of full time support,

Additional funds may also be available for the support of graduate students through grants obtained by individual faculty. Work performed under such grants may be unrelated to the student's intended dissertation topic, or may provide direct support of the thesis research. Time devoted to the work and pay received under grants are determined by the terms of the grant.

Financial support of the thesis research by the Biology Department is provided through the supply budget of the Thesis Advisor. It is therefore important for faculty who have graduate students working with them to include supplies for thesis research in their annual supply budget. Departmental funds for the support of graduate research may be augmented with grants obtained directly by the student through Sigma XI or other agencies.