

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Policy Manual

SUBJECT: Graduate Assistants and Fellows

NUMBER: 5:22

A. Special Tuition Rate

To allow the universities to compete effectively when recruiting highly qualified prospective graduate students, the Board has adopted a special tuition rate for graduate assistants and graduate fellows for state-support courses (see Policy 5:5 Tuition and Fees). The graduate assistants and graduate student fellows shall be assessed one-third (1/3) of the resident graduate tuition rate for all state-support courses (Policy 5:17).

1. Eligibility for the special tuition rate is limited to graduate assistants and fellows who are:
 - a. unconditionally admitted to a graduate degree program and are registered at the university for its required minimum number of credit hours; and,
 - b. awarded an assistantship or fellowship at or above the minimum rate established annually by the Board. Students who have received a qualifying graduate assistantship or fellowship for the preceding fall and spring are automatically eligible for the special graduate assistant tuition rate for the following summer.
2. Graduate assistants and fellows who are eligible for the special tuition rate at one institution are eligible at other system institution(s).

All graduate assistants and fellows not meeting these eligibility requirements shall be charged the appropriate regular tuition rate established by the Board.

B. Compensation

The Board annually establishes a minimum stipend to be paid to graduate assistants. Graduate assistants are expected to work a full semester to receive the full semester compensation. Graduate assistants are expected to work the full four-week session to receive the full four-week session compensation. The minimum compensation may be prorated accordingly if the graduate student does not work the full semester or four week session (as applicable).

C. Non-Faculty Exempt Classification

Graduate assistants and graduate student fellows are considered staff members, but they are not employed in a permanent classification. Any grievance arising from this employment shall be brought under the non-faculty exempt procedures (Policy 4:8). The primary purposes of a graduate assistantship or graduate student fellowship are to provide students with professional experience and the necessary financial resources to attend a graduate program.

D. Graduate Assistant Funding Base

Universities will have a funding base for the reduced tuition benefits based on 97.6% of the FY03 graduate assistant credit hours, which was the final year of formula funding and the current ratio funded. Individual funding bases are:

BHSU	21	SDSM&T	2,445
DSU	336	SDSU	5,787
NSU	801	USD	9,015

Graduate assistant credit hours greater than the base will require universities to reimburse the system tuition pool for the tuition benefit received by the student. The reimbursement will be calculated on increased credit hours using current year tuition rates and the same percentages of resident and non-resident graduate assistants as in the current year. Universities are required to request reimbursement from external sources supporting graduate assistants.

SOURCE: BOR, March 1993; BOR, June 1994; BOR, December 1995; BOR, October 2002; BOR, October 2004.