

DATE: February 18, 2026

MEMO TO: Department Chairs and Administrative Staff

FROM: John Harris, Interim Vice Provost of Graduate Education
and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Stipend X Implementation for the Academic Year 2026-2027

The 2026-2027 academic Stipend X dates of pay will be August 16, 2026, through December 31, 2026, for the fall semester and January 1, 2027, through May 15, 2027, for the spring semester. The attached Stipend X Schedule will ensure consistency of Stipend X pay for our graduate students over the two semesters. As is our practice, graduate students shall remain on fall appointments through December 31 and on spring appointments through May 15 to be paid the full stipend due and to ensure equivalent compensation and periods of performance for each semester.

For those continuing appointments through the summer, Stipend X dates of pay will be May 16, 2027, through August 14, 2027.

The dates in this memorandum and on the Stipend X schedule are for the use of graduate assistants only on Stipend X and may or may not correspond to actual term dates. This is to ensure that graduate assistants are appointed for a full year whenever possible. Delayed start dates, early termination, or changes to the compensation dates will affect the stipend amounts. For the graduate assistant to receive in-state status, the appointment for the semester must at least be 25% FTE, regardless of the start or end date. If the appointment start date is delayed or ends early, in accordance with the Stipend X dates, then the FTE will need to be adjusted to ensure the minimum 25% FTE for the semester is worked and corresponding pay is earned. Appointments less than 25% FTE, or a duration less than half the semester, will not be eligible for the non-resident fee waiver.

CHANGE IN STIPEND STRUCTURE FOR 2026-2027

Beginning with the 2026-2027 academic year, the University will modify how minimum and maximum stipend ranges are applied to master and doctoral students.

The minimum stipend for master's students will remain unchanged from the prior year. The doctoral minimum stipend will increase by 4 percent to support competitive doctoral recruitment. The maximum stipend level will now be the same for both master and doctoral students, with a cap of \$37,000 for a 12-month appointment at 50% FTE.

Faculty and department chairs will have the flexibility to increase the pay up to, but not to exceed, the published Stipend X maximum rate of the students' monthly stipend per month for the same FTE appointment, with justification. These additional funds must come from faculty generated funds and/or departmental funds. This approach maintains flexibility for units and investigators while supporting the University's goals for graduate student recruitment and retention.

CC: J. Harris
A. O'Neil
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Attachment: 26-27 Stipend X Schedule
JGH/amn