



Policy Chapter: Chapter 6 Faculty Affairs

Policy Number and Title: 06.043 Graduate Fellowship/Research Assistantship Load Specifications

I. Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum enrollment requirements for research assistants and graduate services assistants.

II. Application of Policy

Research Assistants and Graduate Services Assistants

III. Policy Definitions

A. Graduate Services Assistant

“Graduate services assistant,” in this policy, means a graduate student whose responsibilities may be administrative in nature or consist of other activities that do not generally fit within the teaching fellow, teaching assistant, or research assistant job responsibilities.

B. Research Assistant

“Research assistant,” in this policy, means a graduate student who is engaged in research activities under the direction and supervision of a principal investigator or faculty member working on research.

IV. Policy Responsibilities

- A. Graduate students who hold a research assistantship or graduate services assistant of half-time (20 hours per week) or greater, or other appointment designed for the support of graduate study, must be enrolled in a minimum of nine (9) semester credit hours (SCHs) during long semesters.
- B. These minimums apply to positions supported by state, federal, and private sources of funds. Academic units may set higher requirements. A load greater than 12 SCHs must be approved in advance by the appropriate college/school dean or their designee and the vice provost for graduate education and dean of the Toulouse Graduate School or their designee.
- C. Upon the appropriate approvals, the minimum SCH registration limit may be reduced to three (3) SCHs for the long term for students who: (a) have filed an approved degree plan, (b) have completed all course work, and (c) are either ready to take the qualifying examinations and/or register for thesis/dissertation.
- D. Graduate Students who hold a fellowship (scholarship) who are also employed as a teaching fellow/teaching assistant are under the load requirements specified in UNT Policy 06.020, Recruitment and Selection of Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants.

V. References and Cross-References

[UNT Policy 06.020, Recruitment and Selection of Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants](#)

VI. Revision History

Policy Contact:	Policy Director, Office of the Provost and VP for Academic Affairs
Approved Date:	09/01/1986
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