

Department of Physics Policy on Graduate Student Support

Graduate Studies Committee, June 15, 2005

I. Preamble:

This document states the policy of the Department of Physics regarding support of graduate students as Graduate Teaching Associates (GTAs) and Graduate Research Associates (GRAs). It applies to all graduate students who have entered the Graduate Physics program beginning in the Summer 2004 quarter and later. Any petitions for exceptions to this policy must be made to the Chair of the Department of Physics.

II. Operational Procedures:

Subject to satisfactory progress, an incoming student can expect two years of GTA/Fellowship support beyond the Early Start program. For the purposes of this document, an “advanced graduate student” is defined as a student beyond their second year. For students who start with courses below the level of the department’s standard core courses, the Vice-Chair for Graduate Studies may extend this period.

A. As dictated by the availability of open GTAs, the department will make these GTAs available to advanced graduate students based on letters of support, written to the Vice Chair for Graduate Studies, from the students’ research advisors who are voting members of the Physics Faculty. These letters will include plans for future GRA support and the expected Ph.D. graduation date. Documented urgent, current need will be an important factor. GTA appointments addressed here will be made on a quarter by quarter basis with requests due no later than one month before the start of a quarter and will be awarded according to the following priority list:

- 1.** Advanced graduate students who have passed their Candidacy Exam and have been supported as GRAs and for which the funds to pay their GRA stipends are no longer available.
- 2.** Advanced graduate students who want to begin work with a) a tenured faculty member who is presently supporting one or more students on OSURF-funded GRAs and who has no other student on a GTA, or b) an Assistant Professor who has no more than one other student on a GTA. Priority will be given to students who entered the program in the Summer ’04 and Autumn ’04 quarters.
- 3.** The remaining advanced physics graduate students
- 4.** Graduate students from other departments

**All of these students must have (or show promise of) satisfactory GTA records. For categories 3., and 4., proven GTA quality will play a larger role in the selection process.

** The department will strongly discourage the ‘gaming’ of the above by moving students on and off grants, playing group dynamics, etc.

B. GTA offers to students whose native languages are such that they do not typically pass the SPEAK test upon arrival at OSU are effectively Fellowship offers. This decreases the number of Fellowships the department can offer. International students are required to be English certified within one year, but any “special case” time extensions of this policy will reduce the number of Fellowship offers in the following year.

III. Additional faculty incentives for GRAs/Ph.D.s (beginning Su'05):

A. Faculty members will receive an additional funding increment (to be determined) in their departmental allocations related to the number of OSURF-funded GRA-quarters supported during the year.

B. Faculty members will accumulate “credits” toward teaching-load relief for OSURF-funded GRA-quarters supported and Ph.D.’s graduated. Details are subject to departmental teaching requirements.