UNC Charlotte Graduate Assistant Support Plan (GASP)

Rules and Practices as of 1/30/2017:

The Graduate Assistant Support Plan (GASP) is a highly competitive support package used to attract top graduate students to UNC Charlotte. Under this plan, doctoral students supported on a teaching or research assistantship, or a qualifying fellowship, of a minimum of $7,000 per academic year ($3,500 per semester), and who meet the minimum registration requirements, receive fall and spring semester tuition and health insurance. Each student is eligible for a certain, limited number of semesters (see below).

1. Length of time student is provided tuition support:
   • The clock starts running the first semester of GASP-eligible graduate enrollment at UNC Charlotte, regardless of whether a student qualified for or accepted GASP during that semester.
   • Doctoral students are eligible for support for a maximum of 10 semesters if the student does not have a master’s degree in the same or closely related field.
   • Doctoral students with a master’s degree in the same or closely related field are guaranteed 6 semesters of funding; additional semesters are allowed if warranted.
   • Students pursuing a master’s in a second discipline are not given additional semesters of tuition eligibility.
   • Students pursuing a co-major are not given additional semesters of tuition eligibility.

2. Health Insurance Benefit:

Once a student is enrolled in GASP, s/he is eligible for the student health insurance plan offered by the University Health Center. The Graduate School will pay the premium for each term that a student is supported on GASP. Each student will receive information from the insurance company on benefits, filing claims and enrolling dependents. Students must pay the cost of dependent coverage. As required by the federal Internal Revenue Service, health insurance benefits are taxable. For students who receive these awards, the University will provide appropriate information and forms related to this requirement.

Some students may decline enrollment in the insurance offered under GASP; however, this must be done through the Student Health Services Office. More information on the health insurance plan and how to waive the benefit may be found here: http://studenthealth.uncc.edu/insurance.

3. Eligibility requirements for the 2017/2018 Plan:
   • An assistantship paying $7,000 or more (a minimum of $3,500 per semester) per academic year paid through the UNC Charlotte Payroll Office, or qualifying fellowship.
   • For all graduate research assistants funded by a grant, University funds pay the non-resident tuition, and in-state tuition should be paid by the source of the stipend. Research
Administration Policy 50.5, found here: [http://research.uncc.edu/departments/grants-contracts-administration/research-administration-policies-and-procedures](http://research.uncc.edu/departments/grants-contracts-administration/research-administration-policies-and-procedures)

- Each student’s assistantship must span the entire academic year, both fall and spring semesters.
- Students must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 or better.
- Students must be enrolled full-time, except for the student’s final semester if less than 9 hours are required for graduation, or the student is enrolled in GRAD 9999 (allowed only once).
- Off-campus internships, paid or unpaid, do not satisfy the requirement that a student hold an eligible graduate assistantship to qualify for GASP.
- Optional Practical Training (OPT) and Curricular Practical Training (CPT) do not satisfy the requirement that a student hold an eligible graduate assistantship to qualify for GASP.

4. Tuition benefit:

- Two types of awards can be made based on whether you are a resident or non-resident of North Carolina for tuition purposes: 1) Full award (includes resident and non-resident tuition for 9 or more graduate credit hours); 2) Resident award (includes resident tuition for 9 or more graduate credit hours). These funds will be credited to the student’s account once s/he has registered.
- The graduate program will provide the monthly stipend through a graduate assistantship (teaching or research) that will be paid through the Payroll Office.

5. Deadline and registration details for eligibility for GASP in a given semester:

- Each student must be registered for the appropriate number of credit hours, and have a qualifying assistantship or fellowship appointment no later than **5 p.m. on the census date** (the tenth day of classes) for the semester.
- Credit hours attributed to audited classes do not count toward the minimum semester credit hour requirements for GASP. Tuition charges related to audited courses are not reimbursed by GASP.
- Credit hours outside a student’s major do not count toward the minimum semester credit hour requirements, unless the course is a prerequisite for a course in the major.
- Credit hours attributed to distance education courses do count toward the minimum registration requirement, but GASP will not pay for more than the on campus rate for the total hours registered.
- Summer registration is not required for GASP. Further, tuition for courses taken during the summer is not covered by GASP.
- **The benefit applies only to tuition charges and not student fees or tuition increments.** Each student must pay the required fees (and any tuition increments) unless the source of his/her stipend provides funds specifically earmarked to pay these costs.
- Each student must submit payment of fees by the deadline indicated on your tuition bill or registration may be cancelled. If registration is cancelled and not reinstated by the census date, the student will be ineligible for tuition benefits under GASP.
- Because North Carolina residents are entitled to substantially lower tuition rates than out-of-state residents, GASP scholars who are non-residents of North Carolina for tuition purposes
should make every effort possible to establish North Carolina residency. Students with permanent resident alien status are eligible to apply. However, some students are not eligible to establish NC residency (e.g., international students on J-1 visa). You may find information on eligibility and the requirements to establish N.C. residency on the Residency Determination Office web site: www.resdetermination.uncc.edu.

- GASP scholars who are eligible to become North Carolina residents for tuition purposes but fail to become reclassified 12 months after first enrolling in GASP may lose their non-resident tuition benefit.

6. Students who are eligible for the Plan on census day and become ineligible later in the semester:

- If a student becomes ineligible for the plan during the term, s/he is responsible for the prorata portion of the tuition applicable to the days after the date you became ineligible.
- The above statement on tuition does not apply to students who maintain their eligibility until they complete all requirements for the degree. In such cases, the student is not responsible for any portion of tuition for the semester.
- If the qualifying assistantship or fellowship appointment does not run for at least 30 days beyond the first day of class, no tuition benefits will be paid.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. How long can a student be on the GASP?

- Doctoral students without a master’s degree in the discipline are eligible for a maximum of 10 semesters from their program start date.
- Doctoral students with a master’s degree in the same or closely related discipline are guaranteed 6 semesters of funding; additional semesters are allowed if warranted.

2. What is the health benefit offered through the GASP?

- For more details, please visit http://studenthealth.uncc.edu/content/insurance

3. What are the requirements for GASP in 2017/2018?

- Students must hold an assistantship or qualifying fellowship of at least $7,000 per academic year, a minimum of $3,500 per semester
- Students must maintain a GPA ≥ 3.0
- Students must be enrolled for 9 or more credit hours each semester to receive the award
- Summer registration is not required for GASP. Further, tuition for courses taken during the summer is not covered by GASP.

4. What charges are not covered by the GASP?

- Student fees
- Tuition increments charged by the academic colleges
UNC Charlotte GASP

- Charges for credit hours attributed to audited courses or courses that are not part of the academic program
- Tuition for summer courses
- Tuition for any classes not paid by the 10th day of the semester
- Any tuition and fees associated with distance education courses above the rates charged by UNC Charlotte
- Additional semesters of assistance for students pursuing a master’s in a second discipline
- Additional semesters of assistance for students pursuing a co-major

5. Whom can a student contact if s/he has questions about residency?

- Please visit www.resdetermination.uncc.edu for more information

6. When will students receive their GASP award?

GASP funds will be added to each student’s account before the deadline for tuition payment. Class schedules will not be held for non-payment; any student with an outstanding balance on cancellation for non-payment dates will have his/her course schedule dropped.