



Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
Office of the Dean

August 6, 2023

To: Franklin College Heads and Directors

From: Dean Anna Stenport

Re: Franklin College Policy: GRA/GA Tuition Requirement and GTRIP Incentive

Effective July 1, 2024, when allowed by the sponsor, all proposals that anticipate students working on these projects and include GRA or GA assistantships or training grant stipends will be required to include tuition unless an exemption is granted. Tuition requirements for graduate assistants are common across research institutions.

In tandem with this tuition requirement, UGA has launched an incentive program known as the Graduate Tuition Return Incentive Program (GTRIP). The GTRIP incentive program returns up to 150% of the tuition charged to sponsored projects (1.5X the tuition charged on the grant). For example, each academic year (fall and spring) of GRA tuition at \$4,414 X 2 semesters will result in up to \$13,242 in funds returned to the major academic unit. These tuition return funds will be used to directly benefit colleges, departments, and PIs, as described below. More information on the GTRIP program is available on the [Graduate School's website](#), including [procedures](#) and [FAQs](#).

At an institutional level, the rate of funding returned to units (e.g., Franklin College) based on GTRIP will be maintained at 150% (1.5X the tuition charged on the grant) for up to **1,000 students** at any given time. Returns initiated when there are already 1,000 students supported from grants will be at a rate of 100% (equal to the tuition charged on the grant).

Franklin College will implement the mandatory tuition requirement starting **September 1, 2023** to ensure that our graduate students are included in the 1,000 students for which the rate of GTRIP funding is 150%.

Franklin College is expected to deploy **at least 75%** of the returned GTRIP funds to support graduate student assistantships. Students on assistantships funded by GTRIP dollars will receive the same benefits (i.e., tuition waiver and university contribution to health insurance) as students on other forms of university-supported assistantships. The University expects the college to work with faculty PIs to ensure this program is beneficial to them.

Up to 25% of the GTRIP funds may be used to support graduate student training and professional development beyond assistantships (e.g., registration and travel for conferences and research-related trips; specialized training or software; access to core research facilities). GTRIP funds **may not** be used to pay mandatory student fees or health insurance premiums.

The plan below outlines how GTRIP funds returned to Franklin College will be utilized.

- 33% will be retained by the college to strategically invest in graduate student assistantships. We will use these assistantship funds to maximize the benefit of the return. For example:
 - To support programs that improve their admissions and recruitment process, curriculum, advising, professional development, retention, and graduation rates;
 - To support the development of new and/or interdisciplinary graduate programs;
 - To support programs that have applied for or been awarded training grants or other extramural support;
 - To match the current usage of philanthropic funds.
- 25% will be returned to the PI. These funds can be used to support graduate student assistantships or for graduate student professional development (e.g., registration and travel for conferences and research-related trips; specialized training or software; access to core research facilities, and other costs that are generally included as direct costs on grants to support graduate student professional development).
- 42% will be distributed to contributing departments for graduate student assistantships.

Sponsored Projects submitted or awarded prior to September 1, 2023 that included funds for graduate student tuition will shift to the Franklin GTRIP model in FY25.

Training grants (e.g., NIH T32 and NSF NRT grants) may be exempted from Franklin College's policy on GTRIP utilization. T32 grants submitted or awarded prior to September 1, 2023 have MOUs in place regarding the utilization of GTRIP funds, and those MOUs will be honored by the college. For training grants submitted on or after September 1, 2023, PIs should work with personnel in sponsored projects to properly budget costs for tuition and fees and should negotiate with the college to determine how GTRIP returns generated from their programs will be allocated.

To help the college, PIs, and departments plan for the use of GTRIP funds, we will defer all GTRIP returns to the fiscal year subsequent to the one in which they were generated. All tuition return funds must be used in the year that they are received.

If the University's GTRIP policy changes (e.g., less than 150% returns), the college will reconsider how to utilize GTRIP funds for the benefit of PIs, departments, and the college.

The GTRIP incentive program creates a significant opportunity for Franklin College to grow available funds to support graduate education.