

Funding

The Doctoral Program in Social Work guarantees four years of full funding to all admitted students, including a salary or stipend of no less than \$30,000 per year for living expenses. Opportunities for a fifth year of funding are often available for students making satisfactory progress toward the degree but who would benefit from a 5th year in the program.

- The primary source of full funding for doctoral students is [Graduate Student Employment](#) supplemented by small fellowships from the Steve Hicks School.
- Highly competitive applicants are eligible for one-to-two years of full fellowship funding through [University Graduate Fellowships](#) sponsored by the Office of Graduate Studies.

In order to receive funding each doctoral student is required to abide by the academic and instructional criteria and established policies of the School and the University, which includes:

- Register for no fewer than 10 credit-hours of coursework during each of the fall and spring semesters, and 3 credit-hours during the summer session of your *first year* and for no fewer than 9 credit-hours of coursework during each of the fall and spring semesters, and 3 credit-hours during the summer session *in all subsequent years*.
- Meet the scholastic requirements for eligibility established by the Graduate School and the University.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.
- Provide satisfactory service to the School.
- Comply with all applicable University policies.
- Students on full fellowship may not hold a student employment position.

Graduate School academic requirements and registration policies can be found [here](#).

Graduate Student Employment

Graduate Student Employment is offered in the form of employment as a [Teaching Assistant](#) (TA) or [Assistant Instructor](#) (AI). These positions will provide:

- 1) 20 hours per week of employment with a monthly salary.
- 2) [Waiver of tuition for the out-of-state-portion](#) of tuition costs for non-Texas resident students.
- 3) [Payment of in-state tuition](#) for registration as a full-time (10 credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters of the first year, 9 credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters of all subsequent years, and 3 credit hours in each summer semester).
- 4) [Medical insurance](#) as a benefit of employment.

TAs work under the supervision of a member of the faculty and your faculty supervisor is subject to change each semester. AIs work under the supervision of the Associate Dean for

Academic Affairs and the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs. TA and AI assignments are made prior to the start of each semester.

An alternative graduate student employment opportunity with the same benefits described above is the [Graduate Research Assistant](#) (GRA) position. The availability of these positions is dependent on external funding secured by individual faculty and varies annually. GRA positions can be pursued independently by the student in place of a TA or AI position.

University Graduate Fellowships

Limited financial aid opportunities for full fellowship funding are available through The Graduate School. These include fellowships for newly accepted applicants, as well as continuing students. Students cannot apply directly for Graduate School Fellowships. Rather, students are nominated for these fellowships by their Department/College/School. These fellowships are awarded to the most highly competitive applicants and students. All 12-month full fellowships include the following.

- 1) A monthly stipend (amount varies depending on the fellowship).
- 2) [Waiver of tuition for the out-of-state-portion](#) of tuition costs for non-Texas resident students.
- 3) [Payment of in-state tuition](#) for registration as a full-time (10 credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters of the first year, 9 credit hours in each of the fall and spring semesters of all subsequent years, and 3 credit hours in each summer semester).
- 4) A supplemental payment at the start of the fall and spring semesters to be used toward the purchase of health insurance.

Decentralized Recruitment Fellowships. Each year, 1 to 2 highly competitive applicants who are accepted into the program are awarded 1 to 2 years of full funding through this mechanism. Stipend amounts for this award vary from year to year.

Recruitment Fellowships. A number of highly prestigious full fellowships are awarded each year by the Graduate School, including the McNair Scholars, South Texas, West Texas, Mentoring, and Donald D. Harrington Graduate School Fellowships. Stipend amounts vary depending on the award type. More information on these fellowships can be found [here](#).

Graduate School Continuing Fellowships. Graduate students who have completed at least one academic year in the program can be nominated by the Steve Hicks School of Social Work for a number of fellowships that cover one semester or one year of study. Fellowships that cover one semester of study include the Summer Only Fellowship and the Dissertation Writing Fellowship.

Fellowships that cover one year of study are the most competitive, and include the University Continuing Fellowship and the Harrington Dissertation Award. These fellowships are awarded based on the student's academic accomplishments since entering Graduate School, a well-defined program of research, research productivity, service to the school, and a strong personal statement. This fellowship is competitive University-wide with preference given to advanced doctoral students. More information on these fellowships can be found [here](#).
