



GPS News

Office of the Dean of Graduate & Professional Studies

Fall 2006

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES...GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS

Graduate Appointment Reporting Process Reminders

Recent and proposed policy changes have prompted greater attention to the graduate appointment reporting process. These revisions are notated below. Contact Alma Flores regarding graduate appointments, GATF, or Non-Resident Employment Waivers (aflores@central.uh.edu).

- Tighter deadlines for the appointment and approval process: students must obtain approval from their academic departments prior to accepting an assistantship and well in advance of the next semester.
- All graduate appointments must be reported to the Office of the Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies (GPS). Prompt reporting from academic departments to GPS is necessary for review of eligibility and processing for the following programs:
 - **Non-Resident Employment Waiver Entitlement:** GPS is now responsible for approving non-resident waivers for students directly employed in a graduate assistantship. (All other types of tuition waivers are processed by SFS. For more information on the Non-Resident Employment Waivers, see <http://www.uh.edu/mapp/Web%20pdfs/050302.pdf>. Students must be employed by the 12th class day (January 29, spring 2007 semester) to be eligible for this program.
 - **GATF:** The Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowship program provides awards to eligible graduate students equal to nine (9) hours of the designated student's tuition. The absolute deadline for GATF consideration for the spring 2007 is January 19, 2007. For more information, please review the GATF policy located at http://www.uh.edu/grad_catalog/grad_assistantship/gatf.html.
- Processing: The GATF and Non-Resident Waiver process involves cooperation from multiple academic and administrative offices that may result in delays in posting all credits to student's bills. As with all other types of financial aid, there is no guarantee all awards/credits will post to a student's account by the fee bill deadline.
- Students are responsible for the full scheduled payment by the due date regardless of their expectation of an award, waiver, or financial assistance. Any amount paid in excess will be refunded to the student once the appropriate credit has posted.
- If an expected award or credit does not reflect on a fee bill: Students have various opportunities to avoid additional charges or being dropped for non-payment. They may choose an installment plan, obtain an emergency loan (90-day repayment period), or a short-term loan (45-day repayment period). For more information visit: http://www.uh.edu/sfs/Loans/Loans_Links.html.
- Communication to students of these deadlines is essential. Please be sure to inform and advise graduate students well in advance.

GATF Success and Matching Fellowships

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies continues its commitment to recruit the best students from around the world by providing students support through Graduate Assistant Tuition Fellowships (GATF) and Presidential Fellowships. In addition to the information above, we are including statistics from the GATF and the Presidential Fellowships for the current fiscal year. Graduate students must meet a list of eligibility requirements and are encouraged to refer to the GPS Web site (http://www.uh.edu/gs/comp_fellow.htm) for a listing of those requirements as well as to find out information regarding other fellowships offered by GPS.

GATF Facts Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

- **5.4 Million:** Estimated dollars for GATF awards for the 2006-2007 academic year.
- **2.3 Million:** Estimated total GATF dollars awarded during the Fall 2006 semester.
- **Recipients:** Over 1,350 for Fall 2006 and Spring 2007; 800 recipients expected during Summer 2007.
- **The GATF is NOT an entitlement program.** Strict eligibility requirements enforced. Visit http://www.uh.edu/grad_catalog/grad_assistantship/gatf.html for more information.

Presidential Fellowship Program Facts Fiscal Year 2006-2007:

- **Approximately 145:** Estimated number of potential students nominated 2006-2007 academic year.
- **Acceptance:** Of those nominations, 98 accepted admission to the University and are completing their second semester at UH.
- **\$500,000:** Total GPS awards and departmental contributions.
- **\$3,750:** The average award amount per student per year.
- **68%:** Acceptance yield rate for nominations; the highest since implementation of the Presidential Fellowship program.
- **2007-2008 Nomination Process:** Colleges have until April 27 to submit all nominations.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES...**UPDATES**

PeopleSoft Implementation

As most of you already know, we are set to implement the Student Records module of PeopleSoft beginning in March of 2007. This software will include modules for the offices of Domestic and International Admissions, Registration, Student Financial Aid, and the Bursar's office. This massive project will shift all student data collection and reporting to PeopleSoft instead of our antiquated ADMIN system.

Although change is a challenge for most people, we are working hard to make this transition a smooth one. "Integration testing" is ongoing to ensure that all the modules listed above can speak to each other. A student prototype is in process in which we will "admit" a fictional student, enroll that student, provide financial aid, send student bills, and then graduate the student. If the prototypes run successfully for a broad variety of fictional students, this will ensure that the system can handle real students when full implementation takes place.

Moreover, this change over in software is giving us a wonderful opportunity to determine whether we want to change any of our current business practices. Both the Graduate and Professional Studies Council (GPSC) and the Undergraduate Council are reviewing policies that affect how business is handled in the student system. For a review of the decisions in process by GPSC, please visit our Web site at www.uh.edu/gs.

A great deal of effort is also being expended on designing training programs and supporting "aids" for faculty and staff who will need to adapt to using PeopleSoft in the future. This training will be handled on a "just in time" basis. For example, if you need to use the new system to enter grades for students at the end of the fall 2007 semester, you are taught how to accomplish this task in November or early December of 2007. This method allows the user to learn the skills just prior to performing the task. For more information regarding PeopleSoft visit www.uh.edu/peoplesoft.

NRC Review of Doctoral Programs

Another important effort underway that is involving many staff and faculty members at UH this fall is the National Research Council's (NRC) review of Doctoral Programs. Although not all UH doctoral programs are included in the review, approximately 27 programs have been asked to provide detailed information to the Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies (and then to the NRC) for inclusion in this project. The purpose of the project is to provide information to prospective graduate students regarding the scientific quality of doctoral programs. Thus, the data collected includes:

- The average amount of time it takes a doctoral student in each program to complete a PhD degree;
- The scholarly activity of our faculty members; and
- The viewpoints of faculty from external universities on the quality of that academic scholarship.

Allegra McGrew, a University of Houston Ph.D. candidate pursuing a degree in Educational Leadership through the College of Education, has been selected as a Barbara L. Jackson Scholar of the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA).

A national organization for college and university educators, The Barbara L. Jackson Scholar program provides workshops and seminars to outstanding minority students who intend to pursue careers as professors or educational leaders. Scholars are paired with experienced faculty members of the UCEA, who serve as mentors.

Look for more information regarding McGrew, the Barbara L. Jackson Scholar program, and the College of Education as we feature McGrew on our Web site during the Spring semester.

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