



Office of the Associate Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School

Policy Regarding Minimum Levels of Master's and Doctoral Stipends

Effective date (fall semester 2010)

Graduate assistantships at Ball State University are granted to those students whose applications are strong and/or unique in comparison with other applicants. Along with a waiver of tuition, these students receive a stipend to support them during their studies at Ball State University; this is very common among other universities. The student on a full-time assistantship is committed to 20 hrs/week of assisting the granting department and must be enrolled for at least 6 graduate credit hours of study each semester. The 2007-2009 Graduate Catalog listed the minimum stipends as \$2,000 for master's students and \$3,000 for doctoral students. Using a current Federal Minimum Wage calculation, the stipend would be \$4,640; we have removed the outdated minima from the newest Graduate Catalog. After reviewing all of the master's and doctoral stipends on campus, a formula was designed to allow the minimum stipends to increase as the Federal Minimum Wage increases. The normal increases in the assistantship pool should outgrow the increases in minimum wage; if not, then adjustments will be made.

Starting July 1, 2010, a new formula to set the minimum level of academic year master's assistantship stipends at 40% above the Federal Minimum Wage and minimum doctoral assistantship stipends at 60% above the minimum master's assistantship stipend level will be in effect. These minima will be campus-wide (on all account designations) and automatically change with the Federal Minimum Wage level. The new minima are consistent with area and peer universities and are within a range that is achievable by current funding levels in departments and units.

The new formula for calculating master's stipends will be:

Minimum wage x 20hrs/week x 16 weeks/semester x 2 semesters x 1.40 = AY master's stipend

The new formula for calculating doctoral stipends will be:

AY master's stipend x 1.60 = AY doctoral stipend

Starting July 1, 2010, the new minima will be as follows:

Master's Academic Year = \$6,496 (1/2 assistantship = \$3,248)

Doctoral Academic Year = \$10,394 (1/2 assistantship = \$5,197)

Below is a projection of minimum master's and doctoral stipends as minimum wage changes (by projected \$0.50 increments).

Minimum Wage	Minimum wage total	Minimum Master's	Minimum Doctoral
\$7.25(current)	\$4,640	\$6,496	\$10,394
\$7.75	\$4,960	\$6,944	\$11,110
\$8.25	\$5,280	\$7,392	\$11,827
\$8.75	\$5,600	\$7,840	\$12,544
\$9.25	\$5,920	\$8,288	\$13,261
\$9.75	\$6,240	\$8,736	\$13,978
\$10.25	\$6,560	\$9,184	\$14,694
\$10.75	\$6,880	\$9,632	\$15,411
\$11.25	\$7,200	\$10,080	\$16,128