

## 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 Using a current Federal Minimum Wage calculation, the stipend would be \$4,640; we have removed the outdated minima from the newest Graduate Catalog.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:*

$$\text{Minimum wage} \times 20\text{hrs/week} \times 16 \text{ weeks/semester} \times 2 \text{ semesters} \times 1.40 = \text{AY master’s stipend}$$

*The new formula for calculating doctoral stipends will be:*

$$\text{AY master’s stipend} \times 1.60 = \text{AY doctoral stipend}$$

**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