

Counseling and Counseling Psychology Programs Assistantship FAQs Spring 2017

When are Applications for Assistantships Announced?

In spring term, after the departmental budget has been finalized; this can range from late March to mid-April. We try to post as many assistantships as we know about during this time; however, some assistantship announcements may be earlier or later pending the source of their funding (e.g., recently awarded grants, assistantships from other places in the university).

When are Assistantships Awarded?

Application deadlines are posted on assistantship announcements and we try to have decisions made within 2-3 weeks after deadlines.

What are the Most Important Parts of the Assistantship Application (e.g., statement, CV)?

All parts of the application are important. See the *"To apply, please include the following materials:"* section of the application for what needs to be included.

Is Specific Experience or Training Required for Assistantships?

Experience and training will vary by assistantship. Application announcements include detail on the types of experience and training required for positions. Applicants will need to explain how their experience and training qualifies them for the position description in the statement portion of the application.

How do Faculty Evaluate Applications for Assistantships?

Faculty review each component of the application and then assign an overall rating. Required components of the application are listed in the assistantship announcement (see *"To apply, please include the following materials:"* section). As needed, faculty who are supervising particular assistantships are consulted during the application evaluation process. Applications are ranked based on overall score and consultation with supervising faculty.

Can Applicants Apply for the Same Assistantship Each Year?

Applicants can apply for the same assistantship each year but the chances of receiving it across consecutive years are low. We try to provide students with different assistantship experiences during the course of their program in order to diversify the experience and training they receive.

How Does the Tuition Benefit Program (TBP) Work?

The TBP is administered by the Graduate School and they have a lot of detailed information on their website that explains the TBP. See <http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/tuition-benefit-program-guidelines/> for more information on the *Tuition Benefit Program Guidelines*. Please also see the *Frequently Asked Questions* <http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/tuition-benefits-qa/> page of the graduate school website.

What is the Difference between a GA, RA, and TA?

The graduate school makes distinctions between assistantships; namely, GA = Graduate Assistant, RA=Research Assistant, and TA=Teaching Assistant. The distinctions are based on the role and function of the position as well as the funding source. Students should consult the graduate school website for specific information on the differences between these types of assistantships. See <http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/tuition-benefit-program-guidelines/#categories-of-supported-graduate-students> for information on *Categories of Supported Graduate Students*.

Does the Graduate School Restrict the Number of Semesters I can Participate in the TBP?

Yes, the graduate school has restrictions on the total number of semesters students are eligible for the tuition benefit. Please see the graduate school website <http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/tuition-benefit-program-guidelines/#restrictions> for information on these restrictions.

What Categories of Assistantships Qualify for Subsidized Graduate Student Health Insurance?

According to the graduate school website: “*Subsidized insurance is available to TAs and RAs who are receiving a full 100% tuition benefit. They may hold both a TA and an RA position (with the total adding up to 100% tuition benefit) to qualify.*” Students should consult the graduate school website for more specific information. See <http://gradschool.utah.edu/tbp/insurance-information/> for information on *Subsidized Graduate Student Health Insurance*.

Are any Assistantships Exclusive to a Specific Program (e.g., CP, SC, CMHC)?

A few assistantships are exclusive to particular programs. Examples include the *Program Assistants* for each program.

Last revision: 3/2/17 by JBS