

Graduate tuition waivers at the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (CAFSNR)

Introduction: This document outlines the policies and guidelines for graduate tuition waivers at the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (CAFSNR), effective from the Fall Semester of 2024. It includes detailed information on eligibility, credit limits, and the application process for tuition waivers for graduate students.

Eligibility and General Policies

- **Graduate Assistant (GA) Employment:** Graduate students holding full- (20 hrs/week) or part-time (≥ 10 hrs/week) assistantships/fellowships are eligible for CAFSNR tuition waivers. The full-time GAs will receive full (100%) tuition waivers. Part-time GAs are only eligible to receive half (50%) tuition waivers.
 - Students not employed as a GA or employed as a GA for less than 10 hours per week are ineligible for a tuition waiver.
- **Graduate Service Assistantships:** Tuition waivers for graduate service assistantships provided by units not within CAFSNR will still be supported by the College in general.
- **Accelerated Degree Programs (BS to MS):** Students enrolled in accelerated degree programs are eligible for a full waiver of base tuition on their graduate credits if they hold a minimum of a half-time assistantship (10 hrs/week). The tuition waiver does not apply to undergraduate credits. This exception applies during the time period when students have not yet completed their undergraduate degree. Once the student transitions to full graduate standing, they are no longer considered under the accelerated degree program waiver.
- **Tuition Rate:** The ND in-state tuition rate (called GA Tuition Rate) will be charged to all students hired as a GA working 10 hours or more per week or 160 hours per semester regardless of any waiver. This applies to both domestic and international students.
- **Academic Standing:** Students on Academic Probation/Suspension are ineligible to receive tuition waivers.
- **Tuition Sponsorship and Fellowship:** Students in tuition sponsorship or fellowship agreements with external organizations (excluding military) are not eligible for a GA tuition waiver. The GA tuition rate will not be utilized. This includes international students whose tuition is paid by their home country.

Tuition Waiver Credit Limits

- **Credit Limits by degree:** There is a maximum limit on tuition waiver credits for each degree track:
 - Masters = 33 credits
 - Doctoral with a completed masters = 63 credits
 - Doctoral without a completed masters = 93 credits
 - Students who are simultaneously enrolled in a graduate certificate program offered by CAFSNR or the college teaching certificate may exceed the maximum limit by the number of credits required for the certificate (one certificate allowed per degree under this tuition credit limit)

- **Transfer Credits:** Transfer graduate credits from other institutions are included in the total maximum limit for the tuition waiver credits at NDSU.
- **Beyond Maximum Limit:** Graduate students can enroll for more credits beyond the maximum tuition waiver limit, but these extra credits will not be covered by the tuition waivers. The additional credits will be charged at the in-state rate and can be funded by the student or other sources, such as grants.

Waiver Coverage and Exceptions

- **Coverage:** All graduate tuition waivers cover only the GA base tuition rate amount and do not include any differential tuition or mandatory student fees.
- **Exceptional Circumstances:** In exceptional circumstances, students may be granted a tuition waiver for credits beyond the maximum tuition waiver limit. The petition to waive tuition on additional credits must be submitted by the mentor of the graduate student, and it must be approved by the leader of the academic unit that houses the graduate program and the Associate Dean of CAFSNR.

Credit Enrollment Requirements

- **Minimum Enrolled Credits Per Semester:** Full- and part-time GA students are required to enroll in a minimum of 6 credits during the fall and spring semesters.
 - Students in their final semester can enroll in less than 6 credits (one-time only).
 - This minimum number of enrolled credits does not apply to accelerated degree program students while still enrolled as an undergraduate student. Once the student transitions to full graduate standing, they are no longer considered under the accelerated degree program policy and must meet standard graduate student minimum enrollments.
- **Summer Semester Requirements:** Students will be eligible to receive a tuition waiver during the summer semester provided they 1) hold an assistantship during the summer, or 2) they have received a tuition waiver during the preceding spring term (or will receive one the following fall term).
 - Enrollment in summer credits is not required. For students who choose to enroll in summer semester courses, tuition waivers will cover up to 3 credits.
 - While students may enroll for more than 3 credits during the summer semester, tuition waivers will not cover these additional credits, which will be charged at the in-state rate.
 - An exception to the 3-credit waiver limit in the summer semester applies to international students required to enroll in 6 credits. These students may be eligible for up to 6 credits of summer tuition waivers.
- **Continuing enrollment:** After the maximum tuition waiver credit limit is reached, an assistantship may be held with registration for fewer than 6 credits, but no tuition waiver will be provided. Tuition will be assessed at in-state rates.